

JPRS-LAM-86-041

6 MAY 1986

Latin America Report

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6 MAY 1986

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

PERU, URUGUAY CALL FOR 'UNDERSTANDING' IN REGION

PA162013 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 16 Apr 86 p 9

["Text" of letter sent by Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti and Peruvian President Alan Garcia Perez to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega; released by the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama City; date not given]

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. Managua. Very urgent. Dear Colleague and Friend: We have the pleasure of addressing ourselves to Your Excellency with the purpose of sending our regards and of reiterating our conviction with regard to the need for the Central American countries to reach as soon as possible, the necessary understanding to achieve peace, security, democracy and development in that region by means of a Latin American solution, which based on the fundamentals and actions of the Caraballeda Message, can show Latin America's capacity to solve its own problems without foreign interference.

During the talks we held in Montevideo we have analyzed the Central American situation with concern, and as we have stated in our joint declaration that we have signed today, we reaffirm our commitment with the members of the Support Group to continue making our maximum and most legal efforts so that the Contadora process may find a Latin American peace formula for the Central American crisis and so that the interests of all the countries of the region may be taken care of. We have found out that in the recent meeting of the Central American foreign ministers, the Contadora Group and the Support Group, we were close to reaching a possible agreement that would have allowed for the negotiation process of the text of the "Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America" for a certain date, 6 June of this year. It was clearly understood that the signing and the implementation of this instrument would be subject, free from all pressure, to the existence of conditions that would allow for everyone's security.

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CSO: 3348/512

ALADI ADJOURNS, ISSUES BUENOS AIRES DECLARATION

PY111605 Paris AFP in Spanish 0332 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Apr (AFP)--The protectionism of industrialized countries and the high cost of the Latin American foreign debt were harshly criticized today by the government representatives of ALADI member countries who have been meeting here since 7 April in keeping with the Montevideo Declaration.

At a closing ceremony, the 11 Latin American ALADI delegates issued the Buenos Aires Declaration. There were no closing speeches and no press conference, because Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi was unable to attend the meeting, as had been scheduled, since he started an official visit to Argentina today.

The Buenos Aires Declaration expresses a firm political will and general consensus to undertake immediate multilateral negotiations to increase reciprocal trade as a way to overcome the present socioeconomic crisis affecting these countries, and to avoid a restriction of their regional purchases, as has happened in the past.

The officials established the bases for starting the so-called round of regional negotiations which mainly seek to achieve a renewed preferential system of trade and payments that will be accessible to other Latin American nations.

This objective will be achieved through a mechanism and a program which, by upholding the principles of differential treatments, will allow the fulfillment of nine general goals:

1. To promote the establishment of new sources of goods and services in the region and to shift toward the region goods and services that now come from third countries.
2. To correct the imbalance in amounts and quality of trade and the limits in the supply of export products of member countries through the expansion of inter-regional trade.
3. To perfect the present financial and payment mechanisms.

4. To promote and coordinate national, subregional and regional financial mechanisms, guarantees, credit insurance, and export reinsurance.
5. To adopt measures aimed at achieving preferential agreements regarding government purchases, compensated trade, basic and service products through regional or bilateral agreements.
6. To establish new ways of economic complementation.
7. To expand and achieve the maximum effectiveness of support mechanism systems for countries with less relative economic development, as established in the 1980 Montevideo Treaty (Ecuador, Bolivia, and Paraguay).
8. To make commitments aimed at eliminating obstacles that limit the expansion of regional trade and its diversification; and
9. To adopt guidelines for a program of cooperation and aid in the fields of transportation and communication with the objective of promoting inter-regional trade.

A coordination and negotiations committee will be in charge of offering follow-up and support to the regional organization. This committee will hold its first meeting on 21 April.

The government representatives of the 11 member countries view the regional round of negotiations as a progressive periodic development program that will result in the strengthening of ALADI as an institution, and in the achievement of regional integration, which is a goal established by the ALADI member countries, the document says in conclusion.

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CSO: 3348/512

LATIN AMERICAN RETIRED OFFICERS HOLD MEETING

Inter-American Defense Issue

PY130231 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0109 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Apr (TELAM)--Retired officers of several Latin American countries today began a meeting to discuss the methods how the Armed Forces can become a part of the democratic governments that have recently been established in the southern cone.

The retired officers are going to discuss the reorganization of the current inter-American defense organizations and the creation of a permanent consultative organization at the South American level on inter-American defense.

The meetings will continue until 14 April, after which the participants will meet with members of the Chamber of Deputies Defense Committee and officials of the Foreign Ministry.

The officers attending the meeting are Generals Humberto Cayoja of Bolivia, Jose Matalla of Colombia, Edgardo Mercado Jarrin of Peru, Richeller Lavoyer of Ecuador, Liber Seregni of Uruguay; Colonels Alfredo Riveiro Daud of Brazil, Emilio Fernandez of the Dominican Republic and Adolfo Majan of El Salvador; and Carabineros Captain Jose Munoz of Chile.

The Argentine delegation is made up of Generals Jorge Leal, Ernesto Lopez Meyer and Carlos French; Colonels Horacio Ballester and Cesar Diaz; and Colonel Miguel Trinidad of the Malvinas Veterans Center.

President Raul Alfonsin sent a message greeting the participants of the meeting which is the second being held. The first meeting was also held in Buenos Aires in 1984.

TIAR Rejection Urged

PY151850 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2251 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Apr (NA)--Retired Latin American and Caribbean officers today urged the governments of the region to denounce the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR), because "it has neither a moral nor a practical value" and because it is used "only to serve U.S. interests."

The retired officers also appealed to their comrades in arms "to uphold in each country the principles of obedience to the democratic will of the people, which is reflected in the constitution."

These statements are part of the "Declaration of Buenos Aires," which summarizes the conclusions of the Organization of Military Officers for Democracy, Integration, and Liberation in Latin America and the Caribbean. The retired officers created the organization and issued the declaration after 3 days of deliberations.

The document was read by Division General Edgardo Mercado Jarrin, former Peruvian prime minister, who was accompanied by the executive board of the recently created organization.

In their declaration, the officers stated that the region "is experiencing an unprecedented crisis marked by a huge foreign debt and by adverse external financial and commercial factors." They stressed that such factors "have strongly reduced per capita income and have raised the unemployment figure to more than 25 percent of the region's economically active population."

The officers added that the crisis "has caused serious social problems, which have sparked internal political conflicts. These conflicts have jeopardized the stability of the democratic government, affecting the Latin American cooperation and integration efforts and posing a new type of threat to the security and the defense of the countries of the region."

In their declaration, the officers also condemned U.S. foreign policy, "because it has sought to strengthen U.S. power, it has caused the militarization of conflicts, and it has overemphasized security, which ends up causing insecurity."

Concerning the TIAR, the officers stated that "it is only used to serve U.S. interests," mentioning as examples the invasion of Guatemala in 1954, the military intervention in the Dominican Republic in 1965, the invasion of Grenada in 1983, and the treaty's inefficiency during "the British attack against Argentina in the Malvinas islands conflict."

They added: "For this reason, and based on other examples in the past, we believe that the TIAR has neither a moral nor a practical value for the American countries. Therefore, we suggest that our governments denounce it and withdraw from other organizations and forums which link us to the East-West conflict."

The declaration also questioned the doctrine of national security, because "it is based on a geopolitical concept that considers two world centers of power. This does not suit the interests of our peoples and their armed forces."

"We strongly reject this doctrine, which has been imposed on our armed forces for the purpose of using them in actions that have nothing to do with the defense of our sovereignty and putting them in the role of alleged political supervisors of the rest of society," they stressed.

Concerning the Central American conflict, the officers condemned the "strategy of intervention" in the region, which has been enforced through "military maneuvers with the participation of commands and staff of some countries with a clearly political intention."

In this regard, they urged the Reagan administration "to end its policy of aggression and assistance to the contras, and to give up its efforts to have Congress approve the aid for the contras, because this will increase the militarization of the conflict."

As for the foreign debt, the officers said that the problem "is one of the clearer expressions of dependence."

They pointed out that "the debt is no longer an economic and technical matter, but a political issue," and reminded the creditors and the leaders of the debtor countries that "the conditions that have been imposed on our nations will cause political and social problems that can destabilize democratic governments, which must be preserved."

They stressed that "Latin America and the Caribbean must take a strong common stand, act with dignity, and reject the economic adjustment process that has been imposed on them."

After "unanimously" supporting "the just Argentine aspirations" over the Malvinas Islands, the officers condemned the "steady militarization" of the archipelago, because "it poses a new threat to the security of Latin America and the Caribbean as well as to world peace."

The officers also rejected the militarization of Easter Island, agreed upon between Reagan and Pinochet, because "it involves a neocolonial presence in the South Pacific Basin."

In the final part of their document, the officers voiced their support for "the just aspirations for the prompt return to a real and effective democracy for the brother Chilean and Paraguayan peoples."

The officers also urged the governments of the region to call, in the shortest possible time, a presidential meeting to be attended exclusively by heads of state of Latin America and the Caribbean, and proposed that the foreign ministers of the region regularly hold annual meetings.

They said that the forum must address "the major issues and make joint decisions in an effort to adopt a common position in defense of our peoples before these issues are discussed at international forums or with other powers or organizations."

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CSO: 3348/512

BARBADOS, TRINIDAD-TOBAGO OFFICIALS DISCUSS TRADE

Barbados Envoy's Remarks

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 2 Apr 86 p 1

[Article by Ria Taitt]

[Text]

NO TRINIDAD and Tobago goods have been put on the Barbados negative list.

So said Barbados High Commissioner Walter Burke in an interview with the EXPRESS at his office yesterday, responding to reports of Trinidad and Tobago manufacturers' goods having difficulty entering the Barbados market. Burke, who made it clear at the start of the interview that he did not want to get into any "tit-for-tat", said that Barbados had merely taken "some protective steps to ensure that certain industries could continue to operate."

He stressed that there were "strong imbalances" in trade between the two countries and underlined that Barbados had been

steadily losing trade with Trinidad and Tobago, "partly because of the recession and partly because of the problem in the processing of licenses and ECOs."

But, he said, Barbados was optimistic about the assurances it received from the Trinidad and Tobago government about streamlining this process. He said that Barbados hoped that some efforts would give its manufacturers greater access to the Trinidad and Tobago market and allow a "more even flow of goods between the two countries."

But the High Commissioner refused to be drawn into a report that Prime Minister George Chambers will be visiting Barbados at the end of this month to open the Arawak Cement Plant. April 28, according to sources, has been set as the date for the open

ing of the cement plant. But Burke preferred to speak of the Barbados trade mission which is due to visit this country from April 6-9.

"One step at a time," he said. "You can speculate if you want to, but leave me out of that."

One of the highlights of the three-day mission will be the mounting of an exhibition of Barbados manufactures at the High Commissioner next Monday. The team, headed by Trade Minister Louis Tull, will consist of 25 Barbados manufacturers, representatives of the Barbados Export Promotions Corporation and representatives of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Tull and his Trinidad and Tobago counterpart Wendell Mottley will hold talks about their stay.

Port-of-Spain Meeting

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 8 Apr 86 p 1

[Article by Ria Taitt]

[Text]

THE DECLINE in imports in Trinidad and Tobago has been across the board and not against any particular country.

This was stated by Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs Senator Wendell Mottley at yesterday's meeting between the 25-man Barbados delegation

and the Trinidad and Tobago delegation at the Ministry. There had been a private meeting between Mottley and his Barbados counterpart before the two delegations met.

Mottley explained the decline in trade was the result of the economic circumstances in Trinidad and Tobago. He stressed that government's policy of reducing imports and trade, was managed across the board, "administered in a macro-economic way through fiscal and monetary policies," and specifically against Barbados.

He pointed to the traditional closeness between the two islands and assured the delegation that Trinidad and Tobago would work assiduously on problems which developed outside of this macro-economic circumstance. He added the visit of the delegation was especially welcomed since it gave both parties the opportunity to meet "face and face."

"Over the last months we have been reading too much about relations that affect our two countries in the respective press," he said.

Louis Tull said he was "heartened" by Mottley's statements about government policy and he too gave an assurance that his government had no policy of restricting the flow of goods between the two islands.

He confessed that over the past two years there were moments of concern and consternation among Barbados manufacturers about the state of trade between the two countries. "Our talks today will perhaps put to rest (I hope) the real and perceived problems facing trade between our 2 countries," he said. He added that Barbados believed "very strongly" in the spirit and letter of the Caricom agreement and he believed that problems identified could be resolved within the framework of Caricom.

Tull News Conference

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 9 Apr 86 p 1

[Article by Ria Taitt]

[Text]

BARBADOS Trade Minister Louis Tull said yesterday Barbados was reluctant to go into bilateral trading arrangements with Trinidad and Tobago. He said the current accent was on multi-lateralism.

He told reporters at a news conference at the Barbados High Commission, Long Circular Road, Port of Spain, he would have been glad to return to Barbados with news that there was no licensing system. And consequently that trade between the two countries could flow as freely as if it were being conducted between St George in Barbados and St Michael in Barbados.

"That is what I would have liked ideally, but we are living in a real world and therefore one must not expect that these kinds of Utopian things would happen."

Referring to the talks held with Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs Minister Wendell Mottley on Monday, Tull said both countries had travelled that road before. But added he felt the meeting had gone a considerable way in removing some of the problems which affected trade.

Among the measures agreed upon at the discussions was that the respective High

Commissioners should maintain a stronger contact with the Trade Ministers. Trinidad and Tobago also put forward its case on the foreign exchange ceiling and the necessity for licensing applications to be tailored within this framework.

Tull stressed that in Barbados's case, the difficulties were "non-governmental" since their licensing system functioned merely as a monitor of imports. He spoke of the difference in the movement of trade in both countries — a seven per cent growth in Trinidad and Tobago exports to Barbados in contrast to a 48 per cent decline in the Barbados imports into this country for 1985.

He also defined the fundamental conflict of interests between the two manufacturing groups, stating that each group wanted a significant portion of their domestic market, as well as each other's market. He said it was up to the governments to search for the "median point."

Asked when he expected to see results from the meetings, he said when Prime Minister George Chambers goes to Barbados, he (Tull) hopes that all these problems would be resolved.

More on Tull Remarks

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Apr 86 p 1

[Excerpt]

BARBADIAN Trade Minister Louis Tull yesterday insisted that his Government has never banned any goods from Trinidad and Tobago despite reports from some local manufacturers to the contrary.

Licence System

Senator Mottley spoke about the problem local manufacturers faced in getting access to the Barbados market. Mr. Tull said he gave Senator Mottley the assurance he would take steps to resolve the situation.

"I must say these hurdles were non-governmental because we in Barbados do not restrict the flow of Caricom goods into Barbados," he disclosed.

Barbados has a licence system since 1983, Mr. Tull admitted, but it is one

block them. As the Minister responsible for the granting of licences in Barbados, he swore he has never banned the importation of any Caricom goods.

Barbados, he added, has entered into many agreements and has honoured them all. No one has challenged that, Mr. Tull argued.

One of the series of measures agreed to in the talks is a more visible role for both High Commissions in bringing an effective conclusion to any problem that exists.

A Bit Vague

Another matter Mr Tull said that was cleared is the procedure for Barbadian exporters to follow in gaining access to the local market. The licence system and the EC-O regulation were a bit vague, Mr. Tull said.

But he now understood there were ceilings for specific imports and Barbadian exporters can now tailor their production to meet those ceilings.

Mr. Tull was satisfied with the outcome of the talks though he would have liked to see all barriers to trade removed. That was ideal, however, and the reality was different, he said.

He hopes, however, that all the agreements reached would be implemented before the Prime Minister visits Barbados later this month to open the joint venture Arawak cement plant.

Chambers Visit to Barbados

FL050014 Bridgetown CANA in English 2255 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Bridgetown, 4 Apr (CANA)--Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister George Chambers will pay a long-delayed official two-day visit to Barbados from Monday 28 April, the government said tonight.

An official statement said that as previously agreed, both prime ministers, Bernard St John of Barbados and Chambers, would formally open the Arawak cement plant in the northern parish of St Lucy. The plant is a joint venture project between the two countries.

The statement from the Government Information Service said the two Caribbean leaders would also hold discussions on matters of mutual concern during the 28-29 April visit.

The trip has been postponed several times, amid differences between the two countries on air services and particularly trade.

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CSO: 3298/404

CARIBBEAN FARMERS MEET, DISCUSS PROBLEMS, GOALS

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 28 Feb 86 p 8

[Text]

Representatives of Farmers and Rural Organisation from the four Windward Islands met in St. Vincent and the Grenadines over the weekend of 22nd — 23rd February, 1986. The meeting was hosted by National Farmers Union of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It was the sixth in a series to discuss regional problems and ways of collaborating to make things better for farmers in the Windward Islands.

Matters discussed included (1) the advantages and disadvantages to farmers, of the new policies in Regional Agriculture, (2) joint programming in education and (3) joint representation at regional and international conferences.

Commitments by Farmers expressed concern over increased foreign exchange to the Windward Islands while work of farmers is not sufficiently used to

improve conditions for rural people. The meeting also claimed that agricultural earnings are used to pay for growth in the cities, more industries, more military expansion, with rural people's earnings stagnating and feeder roads, schools, clinics, and training opportunities neglected.

The farmers' organisations therefore decided to join their efforts to make representation for greater attention to the needs of the Agricultural community. In order to strengthen the representation by these organisations the meeting urged all farmers and agricultural workers to become members of Farmers Unions and Associations.

Steps to make this informal regional body a registered regional association of farmers to be named the Windward Islands Farmers Association (WIFA) have been initiated.

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CSO: 3298/404

BANANA PRODUCTION FIGURES FOR WINDWARD ISLANDS REPORTED

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 7 Mar 86 p 11

[Text]

As far back as 1976 when the now defunct Integrated Five Year Banana Development Programme was formulated, it was recognised that an annual banana production level of 160,000 tonnes would make the Windward Islands banana industry viable.

Using 1982 as a base year when 105,000 tonnes bananas were exported, production trends in 1983 (118,400 tonnes) and 1984 (136,651 tonnes) pointed towards the imminent realization of this immediate goal.

That target was achieved in 1985 when the Windward Islands exported 162,012 tonnes of bananas. This level of output was a 25,361 tonne or 18.6 percent increase over that for 1984, and was the highest export volume recorded since 1969. In that year the islands exported 199,000 tonnes of bananas on the bunch.

Among the islands, St. Lucia's export production

registered the largest increase over the previous year's output. That island produced 80,664 tonnes in 1985 and this was an increase of 16,091 tonnes or 24.9 percent over the 1984 production level.

St. Vincent exported 40,076 tonnes in 1985, 7,588 tonnes or 23.4 percent increase over the volume of fruit exported in 1984. Dominica registered a 6.9 percent increase over her 1984 export production. The island marketed 31, 137 and 33,294 tonnes bananas in 1984 and 1985 respectively an increase of 2,158 tonnes.

In 1985 Grenada recorded a 5.3 percent production decrease as compared to 1984 production. The spice island produced 8,451 and 8,007 tonnes bananas in 1984 and 1985 respectively, a drop of 444 tonnes.

With respect to individual island percentage contribution to the 25,361 tonnes Windwards export production increase, St. Lucia accounted for

63.4, St. Vincent 29.9 and Dominica 8.5 percent, respectively. Grenada had a deficit of 5.3 percent.

There are several factors responsible for this large production increase. First, the islands enjoyed two consecutive years of very favourable weather. Second, there was a significant increase in volume of fruit exported as field pack, particularly in St. Lucia and St. Vincent. Third, input supply has been regular with only minor short falls. Fourth, the Banana Associations have accelerated their efforts, institutionally and in the field, at improving service to farmers. Fifth, the strengthening of the pound resulted in increased revenue earnings to the industry in general and farmers in particular, thus stimulating farmers to intensify their efforts in the field.

If 1985 environmental conditions are repeated, 1986 will prove to be a good year for the Banana Industry.

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CSO: 3298/404

BARBADOS

ST JOHN COMMENTS ON CARICOM TRADE, SITUATION OF GUYANA

Defense of Guyana

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Apr 86 p 16

[Text] London, Apr 1, Cana--Barbados Prime Minister Bernard St. John says member nations of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) will not allow the economy of sister state, Guyana, to suffer as a result of pressures mounted by extraneous powers.

"The viewpoint of the Caribbean is that you cannot spite Guyana if you genuinely wish to assist Caribbean nations to develop their economies," Mr St. John the incumbent Caricom chairman, was quoted as saying in an interview in the latest issue of the "Caribbean Times" newspaper.

He said Caricom Governments objected to moves by France and Britain to block Guyana from benefiting from further aid through the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) because of the inability of the Georgetown Government to make repayments on loans due to the Barbados-based lending agency.

France and Britain are contributors to the CDB. Guyana has been barred from receiving further loans from the bank for about two years, and the Government was unsuccessful in seeking a waiver last year.

Conscious Effort

"We object to the French and British Governments interference and we, as regional leaders and members of Caricom, must use our lobbying power with the Americans and the Canadians and let them be aware of the unity that we share as Caribbean people," Mr St. John said. "If they wish to help the Caribbean, they must help Guyana."

Mr St. John's interview was the highlight of a 24-page supplement on Barbados by "Caribbean Times," a radical weekly catering to the West Indian community here.

He said Caricom Governments had made their position on Guyana known to United States President Ronald Reagan, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and Britain.

The Barbados leader, who was among five Caricom leaders to meet Guyana's President Desmond Hoyte on the St Vincent-administered resort island of Mustique two months ago, said he felt the Guyanese leaders was making a conscious effort to revive the country's crisis-hit, state-dominated economy.

The informal meeting took place as Guyana faced mounting criticism within the region of alleged human rights abuses, linked to opposition claims that last December's elections were rigged.

Mr St. John said while there had been some improvement as a result of moves by the government to free up the economy to allow more private sector involvement, Guyana needed to build up its image abroad if it is to generate interest for investors.

There is hope that in the not too distant future, Guyana's economy will improve and that country would be a great contributor to the prosperity of the Caribbean people in general," he said.

With regard to Guyana's controversial electoral system, Mr St John said the abolition of overseas voting and other reforms gave some ground for hope.

"We can only hope a solution will be found whereby confidence in the election machinery will be shared by both the Government and the people in opposition," he said.

CARICOM Trade Issues

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Apr 86 p 14

[Unsigned article: "Barbados Vows to Fight Unfair Trade Advantage"]

[Text]

BRIDGETOWN, Apr. 3, Cana — BARBADOS does not intend to allow any Caribbean Community (Caricom) country to obtain an unfair advantage over its manufacturers on the local market and would take extraordinary measures if needed to ensure this, Prime Minister Bernard St. John said last night.

He made the point in Parliament during presentation of the 1986 Budget as he lamented the lack of progress among Caricom states on the formulation of a new regime to replace the so-called harmonisation of fiscal incentives agreement.

The agreement, which sought to avoid Caricom governments granting entrepreneurs differing incentive packages, has been under review for a considerable period, Mr. St. John said.

"This Government does not intend to stand idly by and allow its manufacturers to operate in an environment in which some countries by the device of devaluation and non-tariff measures have placed their manufacturers in a particularly advantageous position," he said.

Extraordinary Steps

This matter will be kept under constant review and, if necessary, extraordinary steps will be taken to ensure that no unfair advantage is obtained by any country within Caricom in the Barbados market.

The remarks were seen here as targeted at Trinidad and Tobago, whose long-standing import licensing regime and 33.3 per cent currency devaluation last December have tended to restrict the Port-of-Spain market, while giving exporters there an advantage in foreign markets. Barbados domestic exports to Trinidad — Caricom's most lucrative market — last year dropped by almost 50 per cent.

Mr. St. John said Barbados would continue to press in the meantime for a finalisation of a new Caricom harmonisation of fiscal incentives agreement.

Mr. St. John lamented that all Caricom states had not fully implemented, as they had agreed, the provisions of the 1984 Nassau Understanding which seeks to boost intra-regional trade by protecting regional products

against those from outside.

The virtues of regional protection are now being overtaken by the vice of insular protectionism, he said.

Extraordinary policy expedients conceived with reference only to the circumstances of specific countries, are being called upon in preference to the pursuit of common regional solutions to common regional problems, he added.

Mr. St. John said while Barbados was disappointed with these developments, but its commitment to Caricom remained intact.

"Indeed, given the smallness of our

domestic market and the competence of our manufacturers, we have to ensure that we get a share of whatever market is left, and use our influence to get across the point in the area that in the long run, the only hope for meaningful development in Caricom is to combine our resources and develop the capability to exploit extra-regional opportunities while at the same time working vigorously to create new areas of trade within Caricom by providing for ourselves goods and services which are now being imported," he said.

/12851

CSO: 3298/405

MARIJUANA SPRAYING RESUMED UNDER PRESSURE FROM U.S.

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 6 Apr 86 p 8

[From the unsigned column "Focus on Belize"]

[Text]

What caused the UDP Government to resume aerial spraying of marijuana despite all their pre-election promises? Here may be the answer taken from the congressional record of the US House of Representatives. Representative Larry Smith of Florida was quoted as saying:

"Tell them (The Belize Gov't) that if their refusal to spray continues and they do not make the decision that one feels they ought to make, the US Congress is going to take next year's aid package in consideration with a jaundiced eye."

That was said in June 1985. In September while Barrow was ranting and raving sweet rhetoric on the UN podium, Esquivel and Thompson gave the go ahead to spray. Barrow was not a little embarrassed.

/9274

CSO: 3298/406

BUDGET FOR FY 86 SHOWS DEFICIT BUT NO NEW TAXES

Features of Proposal

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 23 Mar 86 pp 1, 4

[Text]

BUDGET proposals introduced by the Prime Minister, the Hon. Manuel Esquivel last Wednesday in the House of Representatives call for a spending programme during the next twelve months of \$140.6 million on the recurrent front.

The bad news is that with recurrent revenues targeted at \$115 million, earnings will not be sufficient to pay for the expenses of running the government.

The good news is that despite the imbalance, there will be no new taxes. Public officers will get a better than expected 10 to 12½ per-cent raise of pay and government has come up with an ingenious plan which looks like a sure way of painlessly raising \$10 million in fiscal 1986-87.

It was an unusual budget, featuring an original and unorthodox approach to deficit financing for the sake of not breaking the stride of economic growth and expansion. With a shortfall of some 34 million on the recurrent side, the Prime Minister has come up with a combination of stabilization loan and statutory funding which avoids the IMF altogether, makes the bleak picture seem encouraging and promotes the budget objectives as an attainable goal.

Perhaps the boldest aspect this new budget has been the decision to dispense with IMF funding and its chafing

restrains and to put faith in new initiatives which appear to offer better prospects.

Main features of the new initiatives are a heavier reliance on USAID funds to the tune of \$15 million, more reliance on local funding through loans, to the tune of \$9 million and a new concept of statutory funding through an interest-free bond issue, a portion of which will be used to finance development in Belize - all of this in preference to the constraints of the IMF.

BIG BILLS

This year the government plans to spend \$53.2 million in salaries and wages. This

includes a ten percent raise for the senior ranks of the Public Service and a 12½ percent raise for junior ranks. It does not however include any raise of pay for teachers. The government will spend \$4.5 million on pensions, \$30 million on goods and supplies, \$3.3 million on support transfers such as the University of the West Indies, etc., \$24 million for servicing the public debt which now stands at about \$88 million U.S. (please see pie chart on page 4), and \$24.6 million on capital projects funded from domestic sources.

Speaking about "the difficult nature" of the problem of decreasing revenues and increasing expenses, the Prime Minister said this dilemma had challenged the ingenuity of the government as never before. He cited increasing debt servicing costs, increases due to support for the UWI and various international agencies to which Belize belongs, government's contributions to church-operated schools which increased by 1.4 million last year, \$9 million which the government paid last year to bail out statutory boards, new and unexpected demands (\$1.7 million) from the Sugar Price Stabilization Fund and the increasing demands of the government administrative machinery which this year will be taking \$53.2 million or 46 per-cent of what the government earns in salaries and wages.

CONFIDENT

Despite the punishing debt burdens, the higher costs of operation and the lower revenues due to a general slow-down in the economy, the Prime Minister managed to

exude confidence, while scrupulously avoiding the tendency of the previous administration to gloss over the unpleasant aspects of the economy.

"Our people have exercised the patience we asked of them last year," he said. "1986 must be their year of triumph over hardship. The Government leads the way in the struggle. We ask no new taxes of the people. We have shared the benefits of reduced prices in milk, gasoline, diesel, kerosene, butane and electricity. As a result of unceasing effort we are on the verge of re-opening Libertad for the production of ethanol.

COCA COLA ON STREAM

"The Coca Cola Food investment, in spite of hysterical attempts from the forces opposed to progress, comes on stream this year, and projects a total investment over the life of their development programme of at least \$80 million US.

"The statutory Boards, so long a drain on the government's resources, are now all showing net operating surpluses....

TURNED AROUND

"We have turned around the investment climate, increased our reserves, paid off all debt arrears, rescued our dollar, increased public confidence, opened up our society and our government, involved our citizens from all walks of life in our economic development and planning."

"And this year, we raised salaries for the first time since 1981.

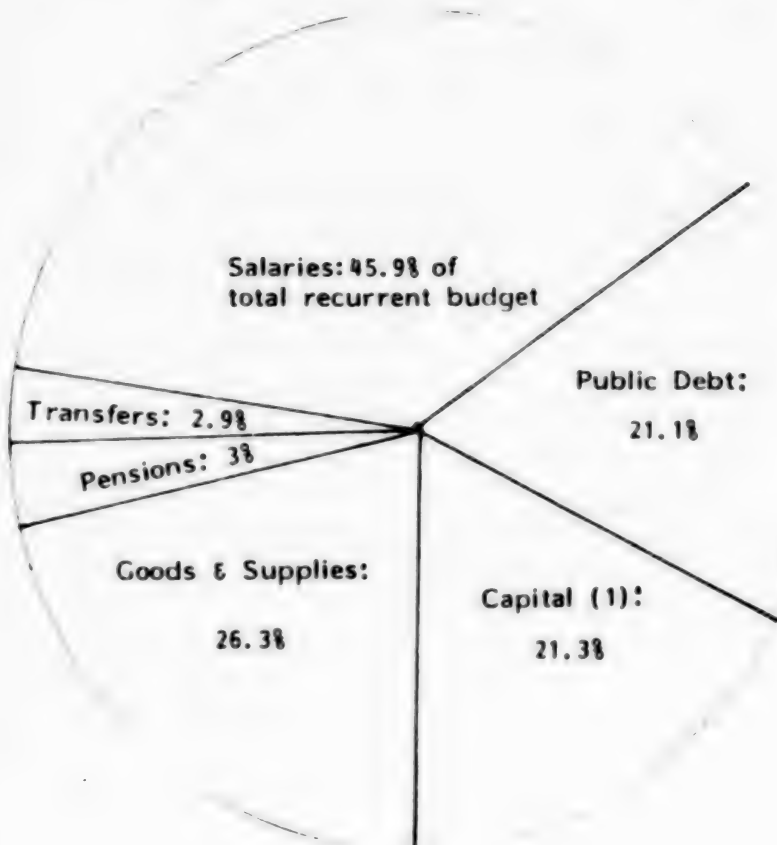
"Our government manifesto commits us to a crusade of prosperity for all. We offer hope; not despair. We offer a new beginning. We have set a

new course. This government was elected in December 1984 to rescue our country's economy. This we have done and this we continue to do.

"The record of achievement by this government in one year is impressive by any standard. We have only just begun to fight. We inspire in

our people confidence in themselves and in the future of our country."

"Mr. Speaker today's budget proposals mark another milestone in our march to economic prosperity. May God continue to bless Belize with peace, freedom, justice and democracy."



How Belize performed during Fiscal yr. 1985

SUGAR 96,000 Tons
(down 4,500 tons)

CITURS 1,500,00 boxes
(up 600,000 boxes)

BANANAS (up 17,000 boxes)

RICE 9,300,00 Lbs.
(up 2 million lbs.)

CORN 34,700,000 Lbs.
(down 5 million lbs.)

R.K. BEANS 2,300,000 Lbs.
(up 700,000 lbs.)

BEEF 2,300,000 Lbs.
(up 300,000 lbs.)

FISH 1,700,000 lbs.
(down 100,000 lbs.)

TIMBER 1,165,000 Bd. Ft.
(down 972,000 bd. ft.)

TOURISM 93,400 visitors
(up 29,200 over 1983)

Comment on Bond Offer

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 23 Mar 86 p 2

[Editorial]

[Excerpt] By far the most original idea to emerge from any budget exercise in this country is the Prime Minister's plan to set up an interest-free bond issue of \$100 million, capable of a ten per-cent spin-off for revenue purpose during its first year of operation.

It is not only a bold and innovative concept. It represents a radical departure from the old method of heaping on new taxes, and only time will tell whether it is a fanciful or practical approach. A great deal will be riding on this one measure--\$10 million of sorely needed revenue, no less. Even if the pace of revenue earnings were to quicken considerably, the no-cost bond issue would still be important in meeting the government's goal of a balanced budget this year.

Last year (1985-86) the revenue performance was dismal--\$97.3 million against recurrent expenses of \$105.4 million. The resulting deficit of \$8.1 million when added to the Capital 11 spending of \$26.1 million resulted in a budget imbalance of \$34.2 million. The imbalance had to be made good by stabilization loans and the IMF funds. Add this imbalance to the deficit of \$7.2 million for fiscal year 1984/85 and we begin to see the urgency for balancing off.

The road has been difficult and treacherous for the new government, mess left by Mr George Price, who was Finance Minister from 1964 to 1984. But there's no point in bemoaning the past. Today the deficit buck stops at the desk of the New Finance Minister and it is his job to pull Belize out of its financial red ink.

The bond issue looks like a good plan. It has definite practical possibilities, but is it the knight in shining armour that it is cracked up to be? Does the bond issue have the potential to raise \$100,000,000 in interest free bonds within the next twelve months?

Certainly it's worth a try!

Revenue Shortfall

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 23 Mar 86 p 1

[Text]

The Government cannot balance the budget. The projected out-turn for 1985/86 shows that instead of a surplus of \$2.8 million of recurrent revenue over recurrent expenditure which Mr. Esquivel had estimated, there was instead a deficit of \$8.1

million. And when capital expenditure is included the overall deficit was enormous—a whopping \$34.2 million. And as usual the UDP lame excuse continued to be "partly because of interest payments for outstanding debts". This however does

not explain how expenditure was overrun by \$10 million while the revenue was short by \$6 million (approved estimates \$103.4; revised estimates \$97.3). Mr. Esquivel stated that the revenue shortfall resulted from "reduced economic activity in 1984 and 1985; from disappointing yield from excise duties on spirits and beer".

This admission of failure is in sharp contrast to what Mr. Esquivel said a year ago when he delivered his 85/86 budget speech: "We find that with good management we will be able to meet the challenge and the constraints with the following modest measures to assist in attaining our revenue targets." And at that time he imposed increase stamp taxes 8-10% which he subsequently raised again to 12%. He increased departure tax to \$10.00 which he subsequently raised again to \$20.00 to include all travellers foreigners and Belizeans. And he increased the administrative charge on the inbound trade and the hotel occupancy tax.

And yet, despite all those tax

measures and additional taxes imposed in January 1986 he was now saying to the nation that there was still a deficit.

PERFORMANCE OF THE ECONOMY—DISMAL

The performance of the economy over the past financial year was in fact dismal. There was a sharp drop in sugar earnings by 30%. Citrus showed an encouraging increase but has since fallen again. Corn production plunged considerably. Esquivel attributed this to draught. The more likely cause was the inability of the farmers to sell their crops because of import licenses granted by the Ministry of Trade. There was a slight increase in beef production but this is not reflective of any increase in the national herd but simply more slaughtering.

On the industrial side, only cigarettes showed any increase. The overall picture was one of stagnation. Even fish and lobster catch had decreased last year.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DETERIORATES

The trade imbalance showed a marked deterioration. The country spent \$205.1 million in 1985 on imports for domestic consumption while domestic exports fell from \$145.7 million in 1984 to \$127.7 million in 1985. As a result the trade gap widened to \$77.4 million (as compared to 69.9 million in 1984).

THE BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 1986-87—DEFICIT BUDGET

The Prime Minister presented a budget for 1986/87 of a total \$214 million as follows:

Recurrent Expenditure	Recurrent Revenue	Deficit
\$116	\$107	9 ml.
Capital II Expenditure (Local)	Capital II Revenue	
\$25 Million	—	25 ml.
Capital III Expenditure	Capital III Revenue	
\$73 Million	\$73 Million	
	TOTAL DEFICIT	\$34 ml.

So what Mr. Esquivel proposed today was to spend \$34 million more than he had money for. He is proposing to cover this deficit

- (i) by domestic borrowing \$9 ml.
- (ii) USAID \$15 ml.
- (iii) Sale of Citizenship \$10 ml.

SALE OF CITIZENSHIP

This last proposal to raise \$10 million by selling Belizean citizenship at \$50,000 per passport sent shock waves through the community when it was mentioned officially for the first time this morning.

The government will enact the Belize Loans Act which will authorise the issue of interest free bonds, which in the words of Prime Minister Esquivel "provide the opportunity for anyone desiring to qualify for registration as a citizen of Belize to do so by making a substantial contribution to the economic welfare of Belize." Each bond will be for \$50,000 and 400 such bonds will be issued this year.

The Constitution of Belize was earlier amended by the UDP government to allow for the registration of any person as a citizen on his paying for it. So desperate has this govern-

\$34 Mi.

ment become that in order to cover their excesses and gross mismanagement of the economy they will now resort to the sale of Belizean nationality on the open market.

THE MISERY FACTOR

The Social and economic picture in Belize today is indeed a dreadful one. People are suffering. The poor are the hardest hit. There is increased begging in the streets. Many children go to bed hungry. The health services and the educational services are rapidly deteriorating. Unemployment is at an all time high and no where in his budget speech did Prime Minister Esquivel offer any real solutions to these real problems.

If the past performance of the UDP government is any indicator, the Belizean people are facing more hard times and suffering ahead.

Recurrent Deficit

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 23 Mar 86 p 12

[Text]

The presentation of a DEFICIT RECURRENT BUDGET (a deficit of \$9 million dollars) shows bad management of Government. In future this will have to be paid either in increased taxes or loans. It is a government which says that there has been a growth of five percent of the economy during 1985.

If there were such a growth of five percent of the economy, enough money would have been generated to enable Government to present a balanced RECURRENT BUDGET with a surplus of to be applied to the CAPITAL BUDGET, as it used to be during the time of a PUP Government.

The indications are - judging from the entire budget speech - that there has been little or no growth mainly because of the atrocious mistakes made by the UDP cabinet. Mistakes which have slowed down economic growth and have brought Belize to misery and economic disaster.

There are several atrocious mistakes that will have to be corrected. Or they will create unnecessary problems for this year and for some years to come.

The closure of the Libertad Sugar Factory has reduced the production of sugar by over 20,000 tons. Besides the closure has created more unemployment and has caused the loss of income to thousands of Belizeans.

The BELCAST project in Belmopan would have injected millions of dollars into the economy during 1985 and 1986 and this would have resulted in more revenue for government.

The issue of permits to import rice and corn has not only discouraged farmers from planting because they cannot compete with the imported product, but has deprived government of revenue. That rice production has increased does not help the Belizean farmer as he cannot sell his produce.

A big loss to revenue was the failure to collect the right amount of stamp duty on the value of the land sold to the foreign buyers - almost 700,000 acres in the Orange Walk District. This loss must total some two or three million dollars.

The foregoing instances and other extravagance (such as foreign travelling, employment of persons outside the Civil Service, abuse of vehicles etc.) have increased government expenditure.

The government in its budget debate may speak about five or even ten percent growth of the economy, but as long as the government has to present a DEFICIT RECURRENT BUDGET, the signal is clear that the growth is not what the government says it is. The truth most likely is that there has been NON-GROWTH due to the folly, incompetence and ballyhoo tactics of the UDP Government.

PUP Reply

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 30 Mar 86 pp 5, 8

[Response to Prime Minister Esquivel's 19 March 1986 budget speech by Florencio Marin, leader of the opposition and Parliamentary leader of the People's United Party, in the House of Representatives on 26 March 1986]

[Text]

Mr. Speaker

I sat in this House, last Wednesday and listened to the generous congratulations that the Hon. Prime Minister was heaping upon himself and his Government, the grandiloquent claims he was making concerning his performance during the past year. The economy has been turned around, he said. The dollar has been strengthened; more people are employed; the inflation rate has been lowered; manufacturing and industry have increased.

I thought to myself as I listened to the Hon. Gentleman: "How wonderful it would be if the picture that was being painted of our economic situation was in fact an accurate picture." If this were so it would mean, Mr. Speaker, that the lot of the average Belizean has improved over the past

year, that the ordinary man and woman in Belize is now better off, more adequately provided with the material necessities of life than he or she was a year ago. If this were so, I would be the first person, Mr. Speaker, to add my congratulations to those that the Prime Minister has already showered himself with.

But to believe the Prime Minister's version of the Belizean economic situation, Mr. Speaker, I would have to reject the evidence of my own eyes.

HARD TIMES

Mr. Speaker, the plain truth is that not only has the economy of Belize not improved over the past year, it has gotten much worse.

I have visited different parts of this country

over the past year, Mr. Speaker, and the situation is uniformly dismal everywhere.

Families who once ate balanced meals must now go without meat for weeks. Children who once went to school must now stay at home because their parents cannot afford to pay their school fees. Homes that were once lit by electricity have reverted to kerosene lamps. Hundreds of small and medium-sized businesses have closed or are on the verge of closing.

This is reality of life in Belize, Mr. Speaker, and no amount of fancy rhetoric, no amount of juggling of statistics, can convince people who are increasingly worse off each day that their lives are in fact improving. It takes much more than sweet words to convince a man who cannot afford to feed his family that when he hears his children crying themselves to sleep at night, that when he feels the pangs of hunger in his own stomach, these are only figments of his imagination and that things are much better for him now than they were a year ago.

STATISTICAL JUGGLING

Mr. Speaker, it is a well known fact that statistics can be juggled so as to create a totally misleading picture. This is, in fact, exactly what was attempted in the Prime Minister's budget speech - a speech that I can only characterize as a wreath of sweet-smelling words cast on a moribund economy to mask the stench of decay.

It is important, therefore, for us to analyse the figures presented by the Prime Minister closely so that we can see for ourselves what the true position is.

Let us look first at the Prime Minister's claim that the Domestic Economy grew at a rate of 1.5% last year, reflecting, he said, a growth in manufacturing and distributive activities. An examination of the figures show a very different picture. Sugar earnings were down by 30%. Corn was down by four million pounds. Garment manufacturing stayed the same; fish production was down, beer stayed the same. Fertilizer was down. Timber was down. Is this growth? No, Mr. Speaker, it reflects decline.

So that even the miniscule growth figure of 1.5 percent cited by the prime Minister - a figure that does not even keep pace with the increase in population - even this figure becomes suspect. How could there be any growth, we ask ourselves, if there were declines in almost every industry? The answer is simple, Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister, got an increase by juggling the figures. Each year an inflation correcting figure must be applied to arrive at the true growth rate of the economy; This figure is usually five percent and if the figure of five percent had been applied in this case, the economy

would actually have shown a decrease. But rather than applying the usual 5 percent, Mr. Esquivel applied 3 percent on the pretense that the cost of living had increased during the year by only 3 percent. Anyone who has lived in Belize over the past year knows that this is laughable, but this is what Mr. Esquivel had to do in order to make a decrease look like an increase.

Let us now look at the other figure cited by the Prime minister. He claimed that there had been a massive increase in tourism during the past year. If that were so, we would, of course, expect to see a similar massive increase in the hotel occupancy tax for that period. But these figures show no such increase. In fact, the figures provided by Mr. Esquivel, himself, show that the revenue from hotel occupancy tax was down by about thirty five percent from the Government's own estimate of \$400,000.

One figure stands out in all this, Mr. Speaker. This is the figure for export earnings. This is a most important figure, Mr. Speaker, because a national economy is very much like a household. A family's financial health can improve only if it earns more from abroad. In fact, we earned less - much less - a whopping \$17 million less than the year before. And the Prime Minister calls this improvement?

So, you will ask, how did the Balance of payment improve if the country's economic performance did not improve? That, Mr. Speaker is just another one of the many misleading statistics I referred to earlier.

Government is acting very much like a man who gets a large loan from a bank and then goes about boasting that his bank account has increased by the amount of the loan. Only a fool would regard such a person's financial position as having improved.

It is only by earning more abroad - something that we did not do last year - that we can meaningfully improve our Balance of Payments position. When we use borrowed money to improve our Balance of Payments that, Mr. Speaker, is no improvement at all.

The same holds true for the so-called strengthening of the Belizean dollar - a dollar that was, in fact, never in any danger of devaluation (Under the PUP). Our dollar can be strengthened only by increased foreign earning and this did not occur last year.

In fact, the balance of payments situation on current account (and the dollar's real strength) deteriorated as the trade gap widened. In 1985, Belize spent \$205.1 million on imports for domestic consumption while exports fell from \$145.7 million to \$127.7 million. As a result the trade gap widened to \$77.4 compared to \$69.9 million in 1984.

This, Mr. Speaker is clear proof that our economy did not improve in 1985.

DESTRUCTIVE POLICIES

Why didn't our economy improve, last year, Mr. Speaker? The economics of several other countries most notably that of the United States of America, improved over that period. So the world situation cannot be blamed for our deteriorating position. It must be something that was done locally. And that in fact, is exactly the case, Mr. Speaker.

The economy did not improve because it was strangled by the very policies that this Government now claims were successes.

Ask any businessman, and he will tell you that high interest rates and the unavailability of loans have had and continue to have a disastrous effect on business. Government diverted funds from the private sector to finance its extravagant expenditure. Without money to invest, local businesses floundered and the whole economy suffered. That the Prime Minister would now attempt to pass these policies off as successes is an illustration of what a skillful illusionist he imagines himself to be.

Naturally because of the slowdown in economic activity, less tax revenue was available to the Government.

The responsible course in such a situation would have been for Government to cut down on its expenditure. But this they did not do. In spite of their rhetoric about being an "austerity government," they overspent their expenditure estimate by \$10.9 million with the result that instead of an estimated \$2.8 million surplus, there was instead a deficit of \$8.1 million on last year's recurrent. The total deficit was a frightening \$34.2 million.

TWENTY FIVE PERCENT NATIONAL DEBT INCREASE

This Government, which at every turn attempts to portray the previous government as an irresponsible borrower, has in only 15 months increased the national debt by some 50 million dollars from \$140 million to \$190 million - an increase of over 25 percent, and in only five months!

Now we are presented with a new budget - a no taxation budget we are told. Well, Mr. Speaker, if anyone expects Belizeans to swallow that, they must think we have very short memories indeed. Wasn't it just a few months ago that the Government increased motor vehicle licences, stamp duty on imports and a host of other things? Wasn't gasoline tax just recently increased? And now we are being told that imports tariffs will be increased. What is this, if not new taxation?

The only difference here is that the Prime Minister with his monumental contempt for the

intelligence of Belizeans thought he could hood-wink the Public by passing the tax measures first and then presenting the budget. Nobody is fooled by that, Mr. Speaker. Everyone knows we are paying more taxes.

But in spite of increased taxes, Government has still not been able to present a balanced recurrent budget.

This is truly a historic occasion Mr. Speaker. It is the first time in over twenty years that the Government of Belize has not been able to present a balanced recurrent budget.

We are entering a new financial year with a budget in which this Government again proposes to spend more than it expects to earn.

On the recurrent side, the Prime Minister is projecting a deficit of \$9 million. And on the capital side he projects a deficit of \$25 million. In all the deficit is \$34 million.

SELLING OUR BIRTHRIGHT

So how does this government propose to pay for this deficit? By borrowing - loans and more loans - the exact thing they pledged not to do during the 1984 elections. This is distressing, Mr. Speaker, because it means that we are saddling future generations with unpaid debts. But it is not half as distressing, not half as demeaning, not half as sleazy, as the other means by which they propose to finance their unbalanced budget.

Our birthright, Mr. Speaker, will be put on the auction block. Our citizenship will become the object of barter.

Let me say immediately, Mr. Speaker, that the previous government had engaged in negotiations and was giving active consideration to proposals for the raising of capital for Government by means of the issue of bonds.

The market that was being considered concerned British citizens of Hong Kong who were worried about the British withdrawal from that colony and who may be interested in acquiring a new protected status.

But no decision was finalized within the last Government and the PUP Government was at all times concerned to ensure the integrity of Belizeans citizenship. It is the lack of integrity in this scheme now proposed by this Government that I feel will lead to abuses and the prostitution of Belizean citizenship.

Under the scheme now proposed the only criteria for obtaining Belizean citizenship are the ability and willingness of the applicant to pay over \$50,000. to the Government. Under this scheme, Mr. Speaker, our birthright is being treated like just another piece of merchandise - a thing for sale and purchase.

There are those who say that we are so desperate for money that we should debase our national dignity to get whatever money we can. This, Mr. Speaker, is the logic of harlotry. The morally bankrupt position that nothing is too sacred to be sold, as long as the price is right.

There is a saying in Spanish, Mr. Speaker, "Soy pobre pero honrado." In English it is "Poor but proud." It expresses the attitude of many people in this country that a people should never demean their national dignity for temporary material benefit.

A people who lose their national dignity are a lost people.

No self-respecting country would prostitute its citizenship for temporary material gain, Mr. Speaker.

The damage that would be done to our national self-respect by such a scheme would be immeasurable.

The man who sells his birthright for material gain is not new to history. The Old Testament in Genesis Chapter 25 tells of Esau, a man who sold his birthright for a bowl of soup.

The story goes like this. I read from the New English Bible, Genesis, Chapter 25, Verses 29 to 37. "One day Jacob prepared a broth and when Esau came in from the country, exhausted, he said to Jacob, 'I am exhausted, let me swallow some of that red broth.' Jacob said, 'Not till you sell me your birthright.' Esau replied, 'I am at death's door. What use is my birthright to me?' Jacob said, 'Not till you swear.' So he swore an oath and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil broth, and he ate and drank and went away without more ado. Thus Esau showed how little he valued his birthright."

When Isaac, his father, found out that Esau had sold his birthright he cursed him in these words:

"Your dwelling shall be from the richness of the earth, far from the dew of heaven."

The Biblical message is clear Mr. Speaker. It is not by demeaning himself, not by selling his birthright that a person, and by extension, a nation achieves national development.

The Biblical message is clear Mr. Speaker. It is not by demeaning himself, not by selling his birthright that a person and by extension, a nation achieves national development.

This view is consistent with the policies of the People's United Party.

The People's United Party has always felt that only Belizeans themselves through their hard work can develop Belize in a way which will benefit Belizeans. We believe that at the centre of development must be the Belizean man and woman whose welfare must be paramount; that the purpose of political social and economic programmes must be to combine and harness the human material and spiritual resources of societies, to provide jobs, goods and services required to facilitate the well-rounded growth and development of the individual and the nation. This is a difficult task requiring much hard work and dedication. "Nation building is a task for giants." We perform this task first by convincing ourselves that we are capable of national development and secondly that it is a worthwhile task to develop ourselves. In short, by developing national dignity. Through education we develop pride in ourselves and in our nation. Anything which diminishes this pride diminishes our commitment to Belize and can only be destructive of national development in the long run.

So I say to this government, find another way to finance your over expenditure, find another way to balance your budget but do not sell our birthright to fund your extravagance.

Reverse those policies that have strangled the economy - reduce interest rates and make more funds available to the private sector. Most of all, commit yourself to the difficult task of nation building and stop looking for quick fixes from abroad.

LIBERTAD

In closing, I must refer to one specific matter mentioned by the Prime Minister. This is his promise that an ethanol plant will be established at Libertad and that the factory will be re-opened. The people of the North intend to hold the Prime Minister to this promise, Mr. Speaker.

This is not the first time they have heard about ethanol plants of course. This government promises that they would save the Libertad Factory from closure by securing the establishment of such a plant. No plant was established and the factory was closed.

The people also wonder why the factory should have been allowed to close in the first place if there was a real possibility that an ethanol plant could be established to keep it open.

Nevertheless, the people are willing to take the Prime Minister his word. We can only hope that there will be no more broken promises.

Suspect Growth Figures

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 30 Mar 86 p 4

[Text]

Last year's Budget Speech began by saying that Belize was on the brink of economic disaster. Then it went on to say that there was economic growth and the production figures showed increases in most products. That budget was helped by the projects organized by the previous government - amounting to over 100 million dollars.

This budget, which is being debated, asserts that there was economic growth of 5% in 1985, but the figures which follow show that there have been decreases in the production of most products; and the telling stroke to contradict the allegation of "economic growth" is that deficit budget that is presented.

If there were 5% economic growth, there would be enough revenue to balance the RECURRENT BUDGET.

Civil Servant Raises

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 30 Mar 86 pp 1, 9

[Text]

In its report on the budget last week the REPORTER misled its readers when it reported that the raise of pay given to public officers did not include teachers.

The raise includes all government workers - Public Officers and Teachers, Policemen, Soldiers and those who are manual workers. It will also have positive implications for those workers employed by the Belize City Council and municipal bodies, which invariably follow the government's lead.

A clarification with the Prime Minister's Office this week revealed that all teachers below the salary level of junior officers will receive a twelve and a half per-cent raise in pay effective July 1. Those above junior officer's level will receive a ten per-cent raise.

The mistake over teachers' pay arose from a statement in the Budget Speech which said that proposals by the Belize National Teachers Union had

been submitted to the Public Service Review Commission and that government would be making decisions on the Commission's recommendations when these became available.

Asked to clarify what that meant, the Prime Minister Mr. Manuel Esquivel said the recommendations referred to various anomalies in the remuneration which teachers with certain skills receive.

Officers of the BNTU, who had demonstrated earlier this year in support of a 50 per-cent raise, are reported to be not all happy with the size of their increases. The BNTU has been holding a series of meetings ever since the increase was announced last Wednesday. So far there has been no public announcement, however, or any sign of more public protest.

Criticism of Statistics

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 6 Apr 86 p 5

[Unsigned column "Bottom Line": "Figures Tell a Different Story"]

[Text] When we look closely at the figures thrown around during the budget debate we find that many of them cannot be trusted.

Take the case of the figures read out by the Prime Minister regarding Tourism. According to the PM, 93,440 passengers visited our shores. The PM further stated that figures are now being kept on the number of "pleasure visitors" and that the 1985 figure stood at 87,830 persons. Our Minister of Finance then claimed that these people spent the whopping sum of 23.5 million dollars.

It is this latter claim by the PM and Minister of Finance that this column challenges. Mr. Esquivel's assumption must be that the 87,830 pleasure visitors spent some \$270 dollars per visitor to produce \$23.5 million.

These pleasure visitors, presumably did not sleep on our beaches or in the streets. They must have stayed at the existing hotels and guest houses. Since no new hotels have been built since the current government took office the existing hotels took the bulk of the \$23.5 million.

Now in Belize hotels are required to pay an occupancy tax. For each room that tax is 5 percent. If we take the PM at his word, therefore, government revenues, as far as hotel accommodation is concerned, climbed by over one million dollars over domestic occupancy.

With this kind of bonanza Mr. Esquivel did not have to go back to the National Assembly to raise more taxes to meet the short fall of revenues in February of this year.

The performance of the 1985/1986 budget did not match the figures thrown out by the Government.

Budget as 'Landmark'

Belize City THE BEACON in English 5 Apr 86 p 2

[Editorial: "The Budget Debate"]

[Text] *THE 1986 national budget is a landmark in the history of Belize.*

Never as far back as we can remember has a national budget declined to raise taxes. What a contrast to the monotonous unimaginative and very very call-

ous PUP way of increasing everything capable of taking an increase. Every March (and, earlier, every December) was looked forward to with fear and trembling.

They were like farmers who milked their cows dry and, unsatisfied, turned to milk the bulls - an exercise in frustration for all and diminishing returns for the wasteful corrupt big-spending, big-borrowing, non-paying PUP government.

Everybody knows their policies brought Belize to the brink of devaluation. No one knows it more than the PUPs and former PUPs. So sure were they that the economy had been hopelessly wrecked that in issue after issue of their newspapers they prophesied imminent and ruinous devaluation!

It was wishful thinking - and we say that because it is obvious that whatever is good for Belize they deplore and attack; and whatever is bad for Belize they preach or practise. They doubtless HOPED there would be devaluation in spite of the cruel suffering they knew would be the result.

But, thanks to the wise economic policies of our UDP Government, the specter of devaluation no longer haunts us. Our dollar is stronger than ever before.

Salary raises for government workers have been announced.

The most interesting and innovative feature of the new budget was the provision for aliens who contribute to a development fund (redeemable) qualify for immediate citizenship. This provision of the budget was severely attacked by Opposition Leader Marin.

"Selling our birthright for a mess of pottage," he howled. How red was his face when it was shown that his own party had first put forward the scheme and had legally committed Belize to it according to documents signed by V.H. Courtenay and Said Musa!

The Belizean public seeing this new Marin "bloomer" following on the heels of the Said Musa-Billy Musa barracks intrigue can only come to one conclusion: these people cannot be trusted, they cannot be believed, they cannot be voted into offices of public confidence again. Not until they clean up their act. Not until new faces and new policies replace the tired old gang that was the Belizean problem and now, like envious curs, yap at the Belizean solution, the UDP.

SAID MUSA'S BROTHER SUBJECT OF FUROR OVER PUP LAND DEAL

'Hidden' Ministry File

Belize City THE BEACON in English 15 Mar 86 pp 1, 4

[Text]

An impeccable source in the Ministry of Natural Resources has let slip the fact that this week, a file apparently carefully hidden in the department's Registry came to hand, revealing this startling piece of news - that on the 11th February, 1982 a lease of the Newtown Barracks Green was issued to Edward (Billy) Musa, brother of ex-PUP Minister Said Musa.

The alarming document described the land leased as "A parcel of land situate South east of the Trailer Park, Newtown Barracks, Belize City."

Now we know what is behind the relentless campaign mounted by Musa and PUP cohorts. They were attempting to use public sympathy to save the Barracks ... FOR SAID MUSA'S BROTHER.

Some details from the secret file (which luckily escaped destruction after the PUPs were dumped from office in Decem-

ber, 1984) are as startling as the discovery of the file itself. Among them -

*Musa was to build a restaurant, bar and lounge of a minimum value of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00).

*The suggested rent of \$600.00 per year (just \$50.00 per month for the whole Barracks Green, was hacked to just \$25.00 per month (\$300.00 per year) before the lease was signed.

Soon after the UDP Government took office, there were persistent rumours that a number of files disclosing a long list of suspect dealings between PUP ministers, their relatives and close friends were targeted for destruction by carefully selected agents within the service.

But the file on the Musa lease apparently had to be kept alive, carefully hidden, and then "sprung" on the UDP Gov-

ernment at the right moment.

That is why when the Ministry of Lands announced massive economic plans to improve the facility, by granting a lease to build a hotel and amenities to the world renowned Camino Real concern, there was immediate panic within the PUP ... and the allied Musa camp.

It is out of this that the save the Barracks Green campaign was born. Except that the PUPs were saying one thing, but meaning something else. They were using people by attempting to stir public sentiments against the government's plan ... a plan that the PUPs themselves thought up more

than four years ago!

Start a big enough public upheaval that would chase away the big investor. Maybe that's when the sordid file was due for surfacing from its hidden nitch.

Save the Barracks Green for our children? The PUPs were trying to save the Barracks for Said Musa's brother!!

Now the whole charade is about to blow up right in their dishonest faces.

The matter was brought to the floor by Minister of Natural Resources Dean Lindo, at Friday's meeting of the House.

Then the once secret Musa lease will be cancelled. Then we will see about saving not only the Barracks Green, but the whole Barracks area itself!

Billy Musa's Statement

Belize City AMANDALA in English 21 Mar 86 p B

[Letter to the Editor, headed "Statement of Billy Musa"]

[Text]

1. On the 16th. December, 1981 I applied to government to lease a portion of land just southeast of the Caribbean trailer park measuring approx. 80' x 150'. It was my intention to build a restaurant, bar and lounge on this site. (See copy of letter attached).

2. On the 18th. March, 1982 I received a letter from the Ministry of Natural Resources informing me that the Minister had approved my application subject to certain terms and conditions and subject to a survey being carried out.

3. The area needed a lot of filling and I spent over \$5,000. on this.

4. This parcel of land comprises a narrow strip at the Northern end of Newtown Barracks by the trailer park and is not a part of the barracks green. In fact, there is a big ditch which separates this strip from the barracks green.

5. The Land Surveyor, Mr. Joe Longworth, carried out a survey of this strip and this fact must be known to the people in the Ministry. I cannot understand how anyone can say I had a lease on the barracks green.

6. The first difficulty I encountered was when I was told I had to leave a 66 ft. sea frontage for the public use. This was from the time when Marin was in charge. This meant that I only had about 15 ft. on which to build.

7. Then on the 10th. December, 1985 a lot that I had leased from the government on the Northern Highway was cancelled and I was told that the trailer park lot at the barracks would be next.

8. I had intended to build a restaurant on this lot which would have provided an amenity and service to the Belizean people. In fact, I had already spent \$3,000.00 to have the architectural plans and drawings prepared.

9. The finance to undertake this project had only recently been arranged.

10. On the 19th. December, 1985 I paid rental for 1985/1986 in the amount of \$600.00 for this parcel of land. (See copy of receipt #23369 attached)

11. It is unfortunate that because my brother is in politics some people have seen fit to distort the facts and to misrepresent the true location of this restaurant site in order to justify cancelling the agreement to give me a lease.

(Signed) E.N. Musa

Lindo Attack in Parliament

Belize City THE BEACON in English 22 Mar 86 pp 1, 16

[Text]

Last Friday's meeting of the House of Representatives was highlighted by a report delivered by Minister of Natural Resources Dean Lindo.

Lindo's disclosures, which generated an electric atmosphere in the House among government and opposition members, and among the packed gallery (which included dozens of college students), were aimed at the past PUP administration in general, and former PUP ministers Said Musa and Florencio Marin (now Leader of the Opposition).

The long list of suspect transactions shocked the House members on both sides, and led to fingers pointing (by students), and cries of "shame" and

"disgrace" from UDP members, while Marin and his colleagues could only hang their heads in shame.

Among the list of indiscretions, PUP government sellouts and opposition lies disclosed by Mr. Lindo were:

1. The fact that there was never any intention to sell the Farmers Market; and that a committee from the market had visited the Ministry, and made arrangements for the management of the market.

2. That the past PUP government had allowed U.S. citizen William Balote to exploit national lands for 5 years, without imposing any development conditions. Now for the first time the lands which were held in single ownership, had been distributed to three owners

(with development conditions imposed).

3. That Coca-Cola people were planning to spend \$100,000,000.00 U.S. in Belize. Coca-Cola has agreed to purchase fruits from small farmers, purchase trees from local nurseries and hire local workers.

4. That the former PUP administration between 1975 and 1984 had sold 25 parcels of government land to foreigners. In one case they had sold 25,000 acres choice land for \$5.00 BZE per acre to a Mexican.

5. That two cayes, Pompion and Round Caye had been sold to foreigners for \$10,000.00. One purchaser is now offering Pompion Caye for \$150,000.

6. The now infamous lease of the Barracks to Edward "Billy" Musa, brother of Said Musa.

Marin Reaction

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 23 Mar 86 p 1

[Text]

Hon. Florencio Marin, Leader of the Opposition in the House of Assembly, has addressed a letter to the Speaker asking for permission to explain to the House his role in the matters charged in order to put on record the truth.

March 19th, 1986

Dear Mr. Speaker,

At the last meeting of the House of Representatives many charges were made against me for my conduct as Minister of Natural Resources. I was refused an opportunity to defend myself and to put on record the truth about these matters.

I wish to give you notice that at the next sitting of the House, the vacation notwithstanding, I propose to seek your permission under "Personal Explanations" to explain to

the House my role in these matters.

I look forward to your assistance in the exercising of this democratic right and hope to be afforded similar public coverage to that given to the statement of the Minister.

/s/ Florencio Marin

Leader of the Opposition

Another PUP Land Deal

Belize City THE BEACON in English 27 Mar 86 pp 1, 20

[Text]

A couple more chapters have been added to the present wave of disclosures of suspect dealings in the Ministry of Natural Resources under the former PUP government.

The first concerns the "sale" of 37 acres of choice national caye lands to PUP crone Ray Lightburn at the price of less than \$13,000.00; the second concerns a strange land courtship between Florencio Marin, the then Minister of lands and Mexican National Ricardo

Ludlow (See story on Page 20).

In 1979 Lightburn was sold 12 acres of land on North Long Caye for a diminutive price of \$3,996.20 under Minister's Grant No. 313 of 1979.

During the following two years Lightburn was granted leases on two more parcels of land on the same cay - one containing 5.4 acres and the other 19.6 acres. Despite the fact that Lightburn made no effort to develop these parcels as required

by the government leases, both were eventually sold to him in 1983, again at grossly under-valued prices.

The 19.6 acre parcel went for \$6,526.80 (Minister's Grant No. 24 of 1983) and the 5.4 acre parcel for \$1,798.00 (Minister's Grant No. 25 of 1983).

Now with full title to those caye lands, Lightburn will not have to be worried about developments any more. All he now needs is a buyer so that he can make a whooping profit!

Lightburn, whose foul-mouthed Tribune folded along with the PUP's general election defeat in December, 1984, is only

one case of how much "friends" of the past administration were rewarded.

And former Lands Minister Florencio Marin, who now acts in the House as Leader of the Opposition, will not be able to shrug off these mounting disclosures as simply a UDP attempt to tarnish his "reputation."

In fact, the whole matter has reached such worrying proportions, that certain factions in the government are already calling for the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry to look into the dealings of the Ministry of Lands, while under Marin's administration.

/9274

CSO: 3298/406

PUP ACCUSED OF WHITEWASHING 'TAINTED' LEADERS

Belize City THE BEACON in English 15 Mar 86 p 3

[Unsigned column "Political Viewpoint": "Sanitizing the Mob"]

[Text]

The leaders of the People's United Party are presently playing with a very 'dangerous political "tommy goff."

The upper party leaders are involved in a sinister ploy to transform tainted PUP outlaws into innocent, squeazy-clean citizens. Behind an evil veil of pious fraud and twisted half-truths, Messrs Price, Musa and Shoman attempt to canonize individuals breaking the law, transforming them into saints and even martyrs.

The PUP and their propaganda organ, the Belize Times, tried this sinister and devious technique with one of the marijuana magnates of the North, Joe Briceno. Remember after Joe's arrest, he all of a sudden became the "poor, innocent, tricked, suffering Joe?" The PUP "bad man" became the innocent, abused child. The plan failed!

Presently, the identical diabolic tactic is being

revived with the weed barons of the South.

This PUP technique makes a mockery of Belizean justice and law; it seeks to create unnecessary confusion and controversy among a peaceful people; and it moreover downgrades the intelligence of law-abiding Belizeans.

The objectives of this sinister plan are simple. Play the fool, twist the facts and let the public forget the crime committed; let the people forget the illegal activity. Let them sympathize with the crook. Show how the law enforcement authorities are the bullies.

And so, using tricky publicity, publishing letters sent to Ministers, collecting signatures from unsuspecting Belizeans, throwing in a few "lee" lies, the PUP machinery attempts to use a magic wand to make the drug kings ready for sainthood. The pusher becomes St. Christopher.

This premeditated plan to cover-up PUP illegal

activity is wicked and vile. It exposes the PUP's twisted mentality in an attempt to fool Belizeans into sympathizing with villains.

Thank God the majority of Belizeans are not easily duped; like Cranny in Little Red Riding Hood. The Belizean public must not grab this poisonous PUP bait which seeks to weaken our moral judgments, and which seeks to make Robin Hoods out of greedy people breaking the laws for personal profit.

The Belizean truth is that people who break the law must answer to the law. The unholy crusade organized by the PUP must never influence us to ease up in our objective to bring the "outlaws" to justice, and into jail.

Also, this plot of the PUP should surprise no one. After all, they do have quite a number of their leaders and supporters to hide in their political closets. But it must be known that no "white-washing" will hide the PUP dirt. The whitened sepuchers and (guayaberras) must be stripped and scrutinized, and the due process of the law executed to its fullest.

When next you hear of a PUP attempt to canonize individuals breaking the law, remember the golden Belizean proverb:

"Da fool di talk, but da no fool di listen."

PUP RANKS REPORTEDLY IN TURMOIL; FOCUS ON SAID MUSA

Marin Pullout Threat

Belize City THE BEACON in English 5 Apr 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

In the aftermath of last week's debacle in the National Assembly, Leader of the Opposition Florencio Marin and his faction of the PUP are reportedly up in arms over maximum leader George Price's refusal to expel party chairman Said Musa.

Marin had suffered a tremendous loss of face last Wednesday when disclosure of a contract signed by Said Musa and Harry Courtenay, forced him to make a complete retraction of his earlier and biblical denunciation of the UDP government's citizenship by investment programme. Even before the House meeting was concluded, Marin had rushed to Belize City to demand of the party leader that Musa be openly chastized and forced out of the PUP.

In the context of the macho politics of the North from which he hails, Marin's position is one

of necessity. His public humiliation at the hands of Said Musa (Harry Courtenay, having no senior executive position in the party, is of much less consequence) has lost him a lot of points with his militant canero constituency, and his undisputed PUP leadership position in the Corozal District is in danger of going kaput.

But sources inside the PUP say that George Price is adamantly insisting that the warring sides should close ranks and put a united face on things so as to rescue the party's public position and cover over the blow to Mr. Marin's prestige. And while others in the hierarchy are fuming at the enormity of Said Musa's blunder, they seem to go along with Price in feeling that the chairman's ouster now would do more harm than good to a party already shaken to its foundations.

Political observers do not expect therefore, that Florencio Marin will act on a threat he has made to resign. But it is also clear that he will not soon forgive Said Musa. The political tension between these two which initially arose out of conflicting leadership ambitions, has now taken on an intensely personal dimension.

George Price then, may paper this one over in the short term, and the party will likely even appear to have recovered from its parliamentary devastation. In the longer term though, the behind-the-scenes, internecine warfare will grow fiercer, and the eventual break of the PUP as it is presently constituted, is inevitable. The destabilization which Musa and Marin had been seeking to work on the UDP has now come back to haunt them, and really this poetic justice is too sweet!

Communism Issue

Belize City THE BEACON in English 5 Apr 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

During the course of that remarkable House debate last Wednesday, PUP representatives Jane Usher (Pickstock) and Sam Waight (Cayo South) both spoke out strongly against the presence of communism in Belize, and, presumably, their party.

In her statement, Miss Jane commended the Esquivel government for its development strategy. Such a strategy was necessary, according to the lady member of the House, to combat the insidious influence of the leftists in our midst who posed such a grave danger to the stability of Belizean society.

For his part, Sam Waight placed his position on record at the end of his presentation. He wanted to make it crystal clear, he said, that he was never one of those who had supported communism, and he remained unalterably opposed to a system which was subversive of the Belizean way of life.

Both statements came after the dramatic revelation by Opposition Leader Florencio Marin, that he had been kept ignorant of the citizenship contract signed by Said Musa and Harry Courtenay while they were all min-

isters of the PUP government. Everyone of the present PUP members of the House was obviously incensed at the clandestine, undemocratic actions of Musa (the PUP's leading leftist) and Courtenay (his fellow traveller).

While, therefore, no names were called by Miss Jane and Sam Waight, it was clear to the whole House exactly who the targets of their withering anti communist fire were.

Musa as PUP Liability

Belize City THE BEACON in English 5 Apr 86 pp 1, 3

[Page One Commentary: "The Mad Dog of the PUP"]

[Text]

[It must be clear to the entire country at this juncture, that Said Musa is the biggest liability of the People's United Party. The rabid Mr. Musa has brought national embarrassment to his party twice in succession now.

First there was the save the barracks fiasco. Whether it was a big piece or a little piece, the fact is Billy Musa had been given a portion of the green. In spite of this direct involvement of his brother in a plan

for the commercialization of the barracks, Musa forced his party into a campaign against Camino Real on the basis that the green represented sacred ground and should not be desecrated even in the interest of development.

Now comes the citizenship imbroglio. Up until the day before Florencio Marin was to read his budget reply, the party had been checking with Said Musa to make sure

that nothing had been signed by the former economic development minister which could compromise the position Mr. Marin was to take in the House. Mr. Musa, aided and abetted by Harry Courtenay and determined to stop at nothing in his frenzied efforts to discredit the UDP, misled his colleagues in the most fundamental way. He took the chance that his signature and the binding contract would not be found in the files at Belmopan; and this fatal miscalculation has now succeeded in causing the personal humiliation of Mr. Marin, as well as embroiling the party in what is perhaps the biggest parliamentary scandal in the history of this country.

This Said Musa is a man totally out of control. He, in particular, has never been able to accept the judgment which the people handed down on December 14, 1984. The fact

that he is now just citizen Musa, reduced from the status of a deity which the once all-powerful PUP conferred on its ministers, has made him beside himself with rage and frustration. And in his obsessive drive to regain that power without which he is nothing, he has alienated friends and hurt members of his own family.

Well, whom the Gods would destroy they first make mad. Mr. Musa's wacko performances have reached a crescendo over the last few weeks, and we think, signal his onrushing disintegration. George Price should act now and put the mad dog out of his misery. Mr. Musa's expulsion from the PUP and consequent effective exclusion from mainstream electoral activity, would be much more than an ordinary political execution. It would be, rather, a highly justified mercy killing.

/9274

CSO: 3298/406

ILLEGAL PRACTICES IN PRE-UDP LICENSING BODY INVESTIGATED

Belize City THE BEACON in English 8 Mar 86 pp 1, 10

[Text]

BELMOPAN has embarked on a major investigation of the Licencing Authority and its district branches, that could lead to the arrest and prosecution of not only employees of the authority, but some big named vehicle owners.

Soon after taking office in December, 1984, the UDP administration became aware that the offices of the authority were riddled with illegal practices. In fact when it became apparent that the stench was getting too high, the Ministry of Transport appointed a high-powered three-man team of investigators to do a detailed "audit" of the records of the Licencing Authority.

The investigating team, comprising Peter August (Finance Officer in the Ministry of Tourism, Transport, Education, Youth and Culture), Wins-

ton Grant Jr. (Examiner of Accounts in the Audit Department) and Marvin Cacho (Customs' Collector) has completed its task.

The first signs of how deep-rooted and serious these allegations of wrong doing were, came by way of widespread panic with the authority staff.

First Chief Licencing Officer Orlando Torres resigned. Then Earl Meighan, Corozal Branch Licencing Officer resigned, but left his post (and according to information 'the country) even before his resignation became effective. Now there are rumours, coming from informed sources, that two other district licencing officers are planning to fly the coop.

The major findings by the investigating team are centered around a long list of cars, a large number owned by prominent people, for which there

are no evidence on the authority's files showing that customs duties were paid.

While a Licencing Authority source has suggested that missing Customs Entries may be a matter of administrative laxity in some cases, it is believed that the vast majority of cases will disclose deliberate attempts to duck customs duties by car owners ... leaving a strong scent of bribery as an allied crime.

The final numbers have not yet been determined. That job has been given to a single investigator - Frank Pandey, Acting Assistant Comptroller of Customs. The whole file of evidence has been dumped into his lap.

It is when Pandey comes up with the final list of dodgers, that heads will begin rolling.

/9274

CSO: 3298/406

PUP PROTESTS GOVERNMENT 'ABUSE' OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 9 Mar 86 p 8

[Text]

The Government is no doubt trying to keep itself in office by manipulating the levers of a government - be it the news media, the Courts, the budget or the economy.

Television in Belize presents a new situation which the previous government did not exploit preferring apparently, to insulate it from partisan politics.

The situation is new for two reasons. One is that television stations are privately owned. The other reason is that the international system enabled direct reception of foreign programmes from satellite stations which makes it difficult to regulate.

This one sided use of the news media is a dictatorial control of public information. It not only obstructs the broadcast of information that is of interest to the community but it also violates the freedom of speech and destroys the democratic process.

In an effort to correct this damage to the democratic process, the National Convention of the People's United Party passed unani-

mously a resolution protesting such abuse.

The National Convention of the People's United Party RESOLVES: (1) to condemn the denial of freedom of speech by the government in their refusal to allow the PUP to broadcast a public affairs programme on television called OUR TURN; (2) to deplore the blatant interference with the judiciary and attacks made on the independence of the Courts; (3) to express grave concern about ministerial violations of the Constitution which permit the kidnapping of Belizean citizens and the invasion of their privacy by telephone tapping; (4) CALLS for absolute respect for the Constitutional rights and freedoms of all Belizeans including: (a) the right to life, liberty, security of the person and the protection of law; (b) freedom of conscience, of expression and of assembly and association and (c) protection for one's personal privacy, the privacy of his home and other property and recognition of his human dignity.

/9274

CSO: 3298/406

1984 PUP AGREEMENT ON BOND SALE OF CITIZENSHIP AIRED

Belize City THE BEACON in English 5 Apr 86 pp 2, 5

[Text]

We publish below the full text of the agreement for economic citizenship which the PUP government signed in November of 1984. We note that *Belize Times* of last week claimed: (1) that the PUP had not signed anything and had never gone beyond the stage of proposals; (2) that the PUP proposals had been limited to British citizens of Hong Kong; (3) that the purchase of bonds had not been designated by them as an approved investment which would qualify holders for Belizean citizenship, but that such approved investments would have had to be determined in the future by the PUP.

As readers will see, the document published below was a binding contract, said nothing about restricting eligible persons to British subjects of Hong Kong, and in fact committed the PUP to designating the bonds as an approved investment which would confer on the holders Belizean citizenship without any requirement of residence.

2nd November, 1984

Ms. Patricia J. Lu and Mr. Kent B. Crane
c/o Messrs. Liang, Ng, Lie and Lai,
8th Floor
Yu To Sang Building
Queen's Road Central
Hong Kong.

Dear Madam and Sir,

With reference to your proposal dated 26th October 1984 and our discussions thereon, we are pleased to inform you that the Government of Belize has agreed to your proposals on the following basis:-

- (1) To authorize eligible persons who make an approved investment, as determined from time to time by the Belize Government, to qualify for naturalization and become citizens of Belize.

The making of an approved investment will also grant eligibility for citizenship to the investor's immediate family, including:

- (1) The investor's spouse; and
 - (2) Their issue under the age of 18.
- (11) To enact, or modify as may be necessary, legislation to grant to persons who qualify for naturalization the right to become citizens of Belize and thereby to acquire and use a Belizean passport. Within three months from the date of this agreement, the Belize Government shall initiate the process to change, alter, amend and/or modify current legislation to give effect to the foregoing.
- (111) To initially authorize the issue of 1,000 interest free bearer bonds on the following terms and conditions:-
- (1) Each bond shall have a face value of USD 25,000, which shall be fully paid to the Government of Belize in cash upon issuance.
 - (2) The bonds shall be bearer bonds without levy, tax or restrictions.
 - (3) The bonds, whenever issued, shall be redeemable for full face value by the Guarantee Bank on or after 1st January 1997.
 - (4) The redemption of the bonds shall be guaranteed in writing by a Bank of international standing and repute ("THE BANK") acceptable to the parties on the basis as set out in the proposals and jointly approved by the parties.

Prior to the first bond or the first lot of bonds being issued, the Government of Belize shall designate every and all of these bonds as an approved investment.

- (iv) To appoint a Corporation designated in writing by the Group and approved by the Government of Belize to be exclusive distributor to promote and market the issue of the 1,000 bonds in the first instance and the right of first refusal for any subsequent issue of bonds of a similar nature or other like approved investments and during the continuance of this appointment the Government of Belize shall not sell or otherwise dispose of any bond (or other security of a similar nature) to any other person or entity without first option to the Corporation.

The Corporation so named shall sell the bonds in accordance with terms and conditions approved by the Government of Belize and on the following sale projection schedule ("SCHEDULE") effective from the date on which this arrangement comes into operation.

<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>NO. OF BONDS SOLD</u>
1 - 2 MONTHS	40
1 - 6 MONTHS	200
1 - 12 MONTHS	500
1 - 18 MONTHS	750
1 - 24 MONTHS	1,000

If the Corporation so named shall fail to sell the bonds in accordance with Schedule, then the Government of Belize shall be entitled to appoint other persons to sell the bonds upon such terms and conditions as the Government of Belize shall decide. In such an event, the Corporation shall cease to be the sole and exclusive distributor of the bonds and to that extent the appointment shall be deemed to have been modified, but all other terms and conditions of the appointment shall remain in full force and effect.

- (v) To facilitate the sale of bonds, the Government of Belize shall forthwith appoint an Honorary Consul of Belize in Hong Kong ("CONSUL"). This Consul shall be a person of high social standing approved by the Government of Belize under an instrument of appointment.
- (vi) This arrangement shall come into operation as soon as the Government of Belize is able to offer marketable bonds for sale.

The Government of Belize shall furnish to the Corporation all reasonable assistance and information so that the corporation may promote Belize as a whole and the bond issue in particular.

THE UNDERSIGNED, hereby confirm that the attached Agreement and everything contemplated to be executed or implemented under the terms thereof are or shall be constitutional in every respect and that the said Agreement shall be valid and binding on the Government of Belize with full force and effect upon being executed by the persons below:-

V.H. Courtenay
MINISTER OF HOME AND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(V.H. COURTENAY)

S.W. Musa
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
(S.W. MUSA)

The above terms are hereby accepted:

Kent B. Crane
KENT B. CRANE

Patricia Lu
PATRICIA J. LU

/9274

CSO: 3298/406

BELIZE TIMES ACCUSED OF 'COPYBOOK' COMMUNIST LIE TECHNIQUE

Belize City THE BEACON in English 8 Mar 86 p 5

[From the unsigned column: "Reflections on Belize"]

[Text]

[here is an extremely ugly and insidious campaign building in the Belize Times; an open and deliberate hate campaign against all foreigners living in Belize. It is particularly directed against anyone from the United States - even returned Belizeans - obviously the Times doesn't care where their muck falls. Their real intention is to disrupt, abuse and ultimately destroy the very fabric of Belize society. Their technique is not now, decades ago the extremely talented and internationally respected writer, Arthur Koestler, described these same techniques. It is copybook communist technique that he learned while part of a communist cell in Paris. It is the policy of the deliberate

lie, the hysterical screech. Throw any sort of muck and some of it will stick! Truth is the very first victim for it is really about constructing and orchestrating a tirade of falsifications. The downing of the Korean airliner, the so-called 'rescue' of Afghanistan, that brought that country into endless war. The same technique is there. Luckily the Belizean people are far more intelligent than the Times gives them credit for and it is unlikely that more than a very small minority will respond with anything but contempt for what the Times is attempting to do. Let the Times, however, take care unless the mad dog that they are attempting to let loose turns on them.

/9274

CSO: 3298/406

BRIEFS

ASSAULT ON MINISTER--As we go to press we are unable to get any official information on reports circulating the streets of Belize City. As we understand, the brother of a high ranking UDP Minister has been attacked and wounded with a machete. The incident is reportedly in connection with the alleged rape of an 11 year old girl sometime ago in Belize City. It is difficult to get confirmation because the Police are under instructions not to release information to THE BELIZE TIMES. The truth on the story will however, eventually come to light. [Text] [Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 6 Apr 86 p 1] /9274

CABINET-RESHUFFLE DELAY--Many are the needs now to reshuffle the pack. The PM's long promised Cabinet reshuffle is long overdue and we wonder is he is able to face his associates with the necessary changes. [as published] If not, he must face the nation; for there are those who are untruthful, those who show streaks of uncontrolled violence those who show sudden enrichment; those whose stupidity has been exposed; those whose cowardice is reknown and those whose incompetence and apathy is inexcusable, Face the Nation! [Text] [From the unsigned column "Dick & Jerry"] [Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 6 Apr 86 p 6] /9274

PUP MEETINGS--Last week Monday night residents of Punta Gorda, Toledo District, attended the meeting of the People's United Party to hear more about the big issues of the day: BELCAST, the Newtown Barracks in Belize City and the National Budget. Chairman of the meeting was Mr Espat. Speakers were Mr Francisco B. Martinez J.P., Ms Olivia Centino, Campaign Manager Mr Ralph Fonseca, Chairman Mr Said Musa and Party Leader Mr George Price. The meeting of the People's United Party on March 20, 1986, at the Majestic Open Lot in Belize City, informed the people about important matters which the radio and television do not tell the people. The meeting also drew a large attendance. Chairman of the meeting was Party Chairman Said Musa. The meeting also dealt with the borrower's UDP budget and its harmful proposals among which is the sale of citizenship to persons who may turn out to be undesirable in which case such citizenship would be revoked by a PUP Government. Speakers were Messrs Ernest Staine, Remigio Monetjo, Senator H. Courtenay, Steve Latchman, Carlos Diaz, CLB Rogers and Party Leader George Price. [Text] [Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 30 March 86 pp 4, 8] /9274

ENVOY TO UK--Mr Denton Belisle has been appointed as High Commissioner of Belize to the United Kingdom, with residence in London. Mr Belisle replaces Mr Rudolph Castillo who has retired from the Belize Public Service. Mr Denton

Belisle was born in Crooked Tree Village, Belize District on 18 March 1948. He is a graduate of St John's College and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from the University of the West Indies. He did post-graduate studies in International Economics at the University of Newcastle-Upon Tyne in England and was attached to the United Nations Industrial development Organization's Investment Promotion Service in New York. The new High Commissioner was seconded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Economic Development from his post as Head of Economics Division of the Development Finance Corporation. He served as Councillor and Charge d'Affaires at the Belize Embassy in Washington and at the Belize Mission to the United Nations. Mr Belisle is married to the former Barrette Sanz. They have two children. [Text] [Belize City THE BEACON in English 5 Apr 86 p 13] /9274

PERMANENT SECRETARY APPOINTMENTS--Principal Agricultural Officer Mr Rodney Neal has been promoted to the post of Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources. Mr Neal entered the Public Service as a Senior Farm Demonstrator in 1968. He was promoted to Principal Agricultural Officer in September 1979. His promotion to Permanent Secretary took effect from 23rd June, 1985. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture and a Master of Science degree in Tropical Agricultural Development, from the University of Reading in the United Kingdom. Mr Rodney Neal is 40 years old and married. [Text] [Belize City THE BEACON in English 15 Mar 86 p 9] The Governor General has approved the appointment of Mr Douglas Fairweather 51, Head of the Belize Bureau of Standards, to become a Permanent Secretary. Mr Fairweather has spent more than 30 of his years in the Public service in the medical field and holds a number of diplomas in Medical Technology, Forensic Science and Immunology and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry. He is skilled in health management, standardization and methodology. Since 1984 he has been in charge of the newly established Belize Bureau of Standards. [Text] [Belize City THE REPORTER in English 6 Apr 86 p 6] /9274

TOLEDO FARMING SUCCESSES--Natural Resources Minister, Mr Dean Lindo speaking to Toledo Farmers recently at the annual general meeting of the Toledo Grain Growers Association, congratulated the farmers for producing a half of the 12 million pounds of rice paddy grown in Belize, fifteen per-cent of all the corn and 25 per-cent of all the red kidney beans. The production of grain and beans plays a major role in the nutritional and economic well being of the country, he told them, and the best way to guarantee production and growth is through an active and strong Grain Growers Association. Last year Toledo farmers produced 6 million pounds of rice paddy, (country-wide figure was 12 million) six million pounds of corn out of a country-wide production of 40 million, and 750,000 pounds of Red Kidney Beans out of a country-wide total of 3 million pounds. Last year Belize farmers produced 5 million pounds of sorgum. [Text] [Belize City THE REPORTER in English 9 Mar 86 p 9] /9274

CSO: 3298/406

BISHOPS' DOCUMENT ON CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

PY090358 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Apr 86 p 7

[By Dermi Azevedo]

[Text] An appeal for a "true mobilization of the Christian Brazilian people" to guarantee a democratic constitution and a statement noting that "Brazil is experiencing a difficult political moment," having to choose between a full democracy and "the peoples' frustration" that may lead to "unpredictable consequences," are the most outstanding points of a preliminary document entitled "Christian demands for a new constitutional order" drawn up by a commission of the CNBB (National Conference of Brazilian Bishops).

The document will be submitted to the episcopate during the 24th CNBB General Assembly to be held from 9 to 19 April in a convent in Itaici, Indaiatuba district, 99 km northeast from Sao Paulo. The document is regarded as "secret" and it is recommended that it "not be published." The final draft of this document will be edited this coming weekend in Itaici, and the entire document may or may not be modified by the bishops for publication.

Moreover, this version is the result of a consultation made by the CNBB with the bishops. This 32-page document is divided into three parts: "Church and Constitution," "Basic Values and Their Social Implication," and "Mobilization of Christians." The consultation process started in December 1985.

The commission in charge of receiving and organizing the bishops' proposals is headed by Sao Paulo auxiliary bishop Msgr Antonio Celso Queiroz. The other members of this commission are Msgr Celso Pinto, bishop of Victoria de Conquista (Bahia state district located 522 km southeast of Salvador), and by Msgr Afonso Felipe Gregory, Rio de Janeiro auxiliary bishop, who are advised by Jesuit sociologist Fernando Bastos Avila and father Agostinhop Castejon, secretary general of the MEB (Basic Education Movement).

During the debate referring to the Constitution, the CNBB will also take into account the suggestions made by the "Commission in Charge of Following the Constitutional Process" [Comissao de Acompanhamento do Processo Constitucional], headed by Msgr Candido Padim, bishop of Bauru (a district located 377 km northeast of Sao Paulo) and formed, among other jurists and lawyers by Fabio Konder Comparato (author of the PT [Workers Party] draft

constitution), by Plinio de Arruda Esampaio, PT alternate federal deputy, and by professor Candido Mendes de Almeida from Rio de Janeiro.

In the introduction of the document the commission recognizes "the autonomy" of the Christians in the drafting of the constitution, reasserting that the bishops do not play a technical role and noting that to participate in the constitutional process "represents a social duty as well as a right of the citizens." The document goes on to point out that the church's struggle "for a more just and fraternal society" now also entails an effort in favor of the "Christian demands for a constitutional order."

In referring to the "importance of this political moment" the document states that Brazil is faced with two alternatives: either to "prepare the path for consolidating a democracy with the participation of all sectors," improving the Brazilian peoples' living standards, or to "offer the nation the sad spectacle of a mere reshuffling of the party leadership tied to the same partisan interests."

Should this be the case, "the peoples' frustration could lead the country to a process of social turmoil with unpredictable consequences" and the differences would lead to "a social 'apartheid'", with "highly modernized minority sectors" with increasing poverty.

Faced with this situation, the text of the document proposes "a deep-rooted reform of the institutions," consolidated through "a new constitutional pact." Further on the document terms the constitutional debate a "privileged movement for awareness and education" and supports the people's participation. Regarding the church's cooperation the document states that it is aware that from "the statistical point of view" Brazil the largest Catholic country in the world and also "one of the countries marked by the greatest social differences," noting that "it is not 'tolerable' that Brazil should prove itself incapable, 'starting with faith,' of building a more just society."

Asserting that within that context, the church felt as if it "were in the middle of the cross fire" of those who viewed it as an organization that is always questioning things and those who viewed it as a reformist organization, the document stated that there is "a significant national consensus" supporting changes "within the democratic spaces open by the new regime."

The document then goes on to make an appeal to Catholics and Christians "to become aware of their power," not accepting the Catholic anonymity, allowing the loud minorities to occupy the arena of the constitutional debate." The document then, indirectly, criticizes the Provisional Commission for Constitutional Studies [Comissao Provisoria de Estudos constitucionais], headed by jurist Afonso Arinos, stating that the drafting of the constitution "is not exclusively prerogative of the experts."

Further on the text lists the "necessary minimum contents" and values considered "unnegotiable" to the Christians, even within a constituent assembly. Among these values are the human dignity and equality, the defense and promotion of life [condemning homicide, abortion, active euthanasia, death

penalty, mutilations, violence or any other type of physical, psychological, or moral violence).

Regarding "family rights," the document supports the legal defense of the de facto stable marriages, it acknowledges the church's pastoral role regarding "Christian couples illegally established" and proposed that all children "born within or outside a marriage" should enjoy the same rights.

In the economic field the document upholds a maximum salary ceiling and the right to strike "within the limits established by the law," it reasserts the right related to private property, and the struggle against speculation and corruption. Regarding religious freedom, it [word indistinct] that it be applied in worship and education. In the economic field it also supports "an urgent and broad" agrarian reform.

In referring to the state, it proposes that it be tightly controlled by the citizens and, in the political field, it considers the freedom of expression, the right to assembly and information, and the plebiscitary vote in the decision-making of "important national issues" as essential.

The document also proposes that the National Congress grant radio and television licenses and that the moral censorship be carried out by the citizenry. In referring to mobilizations, the document proposes that the Christians take part in the political field by proposing and electing their candidates, controlling the elected congressmen, always maintaining a "democratic vigilance."

/12913

CSO: 3342/95

BRIEFS

LEADERS STUDYING IN CUBA--Three labor union leaders of the Sole Central Organization of Workers (CUT) have been in Cuba since the end of February, attending a training course for labor union leaders at the Lazaro Pena School in Havana. They are the leaders of the Maranhao Construction Workers Union, the Para Rural Workers Union and the Sao Paulo Franca Shoe Factory Workers Union. This is the second group of Brazilians to attend Cuban Schools. The first group return shortly before Christmas after two months of daily classes sponsored by the government of Fidel Castro. In both cases the CUT and the respective labor unions paid for the first leg of the trip, to Peru, and Cuban Government picked up the tab for the rest of the trip and students' room and board. [From the "Radar" column] [Text] [Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 9 Apr 86 p 35 PY] /12913

FUNARO ON IMF TALKS--The Brazilian Government will not abandon its proposal to negotiations regarding the \$2.4 billion [word indistinct] with the industrialized countries. In addition, it will insist on the roll over of its foreign debt without previous approval from the IMF. These statements were made by Finance Minister Dilson Funaro. Funaro dismissed the possibility of Brazil withdrawing monetary reserves to pay the debt owed to the Paris Club for 1985 and 1986. On 14 April, Brazil will begin negotiations with the industrialized countries concerning the payment of \$8 billion, in debts which come due at the end of 1986. [Text] [Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 12 Apr 86 PY] /12913

GOVERNOR DENIES STROESSNER INVITATION--Proto Alegre--Rio Grande do Sul Governor Jair Soares (PFL) [Liberal Front Party] yesterday denied having invited Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner to visit Rio Grande do Sul state. He said that he had not invited, and will not invite Stroessner "for several obvious reasons." He also denied that he plans to declare Stroessner a guest of honor of the state during the visit which Stroessner will pay to Rio Grande county at the beginning of May at the invitation of the local mayor. Jair Soares issued his statement amid rising protests against the reported visit of the Paraguayan president. The Justice and Human Rights movement is preparing a campaign to thwart the visit and opposes the idea of having Stroessner come as an official guest. The governor guaranteed that Stroessner's trip to Rio Grande would be "purely private." [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 Apr 86 PY] /12913

CSO: 3342/95

GOVERNMENT PREDICTS STRONG ECONOMIC GROWTH IN 1986

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 15 Mar 86 p 10

[Text]

AGRICULTURE, tourism, manufacturing and construction will lead a "tremendous economic take-off" this year, giving an economic growth of between four and five per-cent, government officials have predicted.

The economic growth is measured as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product.

The officials have predicted rises in the production of Grenada's three main export crops, cocoa, bananas and nutmegs because of better or more stable prices.

In tourism, the total number of arrivals is projected to grow by 15 per-cent over 1985. Last year, 143,000 visitors came to Grenada. The predicted rise in arrivals will be because "of the growing inter-

national confidence in Grenada," officials have said.

"The current shortage of hotel accomodation will be partially relieved with the reopening of Grenada's flagship hotel and the completion of other hotels and guesthouses," Prime Minister Herbert Blaize said recently in his budget presentation.

Speaking on the projected developments in the manufacturing sector, Mr. Blaize said; "This sector is projected to grow by approximately eight percent in 1986." This he said is as a "result of the commencement of the operations of 24 businesses approved by the Industrial Development Corporation and the start-up of twin-plant operations in Grenada by three United States

firms" operating in
Puerto Rico.

Construction is
also to see a "sub-
stantial rise in
the level of acti-
vity," according to
the government
forecasters. "On the
basis of their or-

der books, nearly
all firms report
good prospects, es-
pecially in the de-
mand for hotel, re-
sidential and in-
dustrial build-
ings," they have
said.

/12851

CSO: 3298/407

GOVERNMENT HOPES TO ESTABLISH MERCHANT BANK

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 15 Mar 86 p 11

[Text]

Government is interested in setting up a merchant bank, and has asked the United States for E.C \$27 million to help set up the institution.

Government wants to establish the bank following a recent study of credit availability here by USAID, which revealed that banks in the island are "extremely conservative in their lending practices and policies."

If the bank is established it will provide medium and long-term financing for commercial and industrial development.

The proposed merchant bank requires initial funding of EC\$46 million.

Government says, the lending policies of locally-based commercial banks stifles the

growth prospects of the economy. It says, some of these practices consist of "highly restrictive lending and excessive security and high interest rates."

However, the New National Party administration says, it has no intention of interfering in the operations of commercial banks since it is committed to the system of free enterprise. The Prime Minister said, however, that as a means of inducing competitiveness within the banking sector for the purpose of stimulating loan demand, the government has decided to give guidelines from time to time, to the state-owned commercial banks to help them in providing leadership to

the foreign-owned banks in areas of deposit rates, lending rates, policies, limits and collateral.

The proposed merchant bank will "fill a long-felt need within Grenada's financial system and thus provide our enterprising young businessmen with little start-up capital and less security, with an opportunity to go into business of their own," Prime Minister Herbert Blaize has said on the issue.

/12851

CSO: 3298/407

GRENADA

BRIEFS

POLICE RESERVE FORCE--The Grenada police is creating a "special reserve force". The police department is now enlisting people to serve on the body. The Royal Grenada Special Reserve Police Force, as it will be called, will be a voluntary body. Its members will receive police training and "called out to duty" when the need arises. According to a police source at the forces headquarters, though the reserve force will be a voluntary body, "its members will be compensated" when called out to duty. [Text] [St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 15 Mar 86 p 2] /12851

RISE IN CRIME--St George's, Thursday, (CANA)--Grenada Police have reported increases in violent crimes, crimes against property, and drug-related offences last year compared with 1984. A police statement said there were 860 recorded cases of violent crimes, including murder, wounding, and assault in 1985, as against 653 for the previous year. The 1983 reported total was 1,082. As far as crimes against property such as burglary, house, office and shop breaking, larceny, praedial larceny, forgery, fraud, false pretense and embezzlement were concerned, there were 1,115 in 1985, from 966 in 1984. For 1983, the figure was 1,349. The statement said police destroyed a total of 20,822 marijuana plants in 1985 compared to 4,742 in 1984, and 75 in 1983. Drug-related violence and a growing abuse problem in the country have created a greater police awareness of the dangers caused by drug traffickers, the statement said. Some 186 persons were arrested last year on marijuana charges, up slightly from 175 last year, while the number of marijuana cigarettes seized in 1985 was 576, the same as in 1984. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 28 Mar 86 p 36] /12851

ARMS CACHE--St George's, Sunday, (CANA)--Police in Grenada have discovered four A-K 47 rifles and 358 rounds of ammunition in a cave in hilly terrain in the rural area of St David's, according to a broadcast on state-owned 'Radio Grenada'. The arms and ammunition were found by the American-trained Special Services Unit (SU) following a tip-off, the radio said. A-K 47 rifles were often used by the People's Revolutionary Army (PRG) which was disbanded after an October 1983 US-led invasion of Grenada. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 7 Apr 86 p 35] /12851

CSO: 3298/407

HEAD OF INDEPENDENT CIVIL RIGHTS BODY CITES SUPPRESSION

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 4 Apr 86 p 3

[Article by Hildegard Stausberg: "Prisoners in Total Darkness and Solitary Confinement--The Independent Civil Rights Commission of Nicaragua/Forceful Recruitment"]

[Text] "The situation in the Nicaraguan jails is the worst in all of Latin America, both with regard to the constantly rising numbers as well as with respect to the living conditions of the prisoners." Lino Hernandez Trigeros, a 32-year-old attorney, is sitting in his office in the capital city of Managua. For years he has worked for the independent civil rights commission--the CPDH. It had been established during the Somoza regime by Jose Esteban Gonzalez. Gonzalez is now living in Europe in exile after the Sandinista regime had sentenced him in absentia to 16 years in jail. None other than the now all-powerful Interior Minister Tomas Borge incidentally owes his life to Gonzalez: In 1978, Borge was captured and Gonzalez saw to it that the founding member of the Sandinista Liberation Front was able to emigrate to Cuba.

But even without Gonzalez the CPDH continues its work. There is plenty to do: "According to modest estimates, Nicaragua has some 7,000 to 7,500 political prisoners; in addition, some 2,300 members of the former Somoza national guard are in jail without having been tried for almost 7 years. These 10,000 political prisoners are incarcerated in special jails which are directly subordinated to the State Security Service. The regime does not permit anyone to visit them, not even Amnesty International or the International Committee of the Red Cross." (In a conversation with this newspaper, two members of the committee confirmed this statement and regretted that the Sandinista government, despite persistent requests, is thus the only government in Central America which is resisting the work of the International Red Cross in all jails of the country.) According to Trigeros, the conditions in these special jails, which are "absolutely inhumane," had been reported to the commission by prisoners. In the most notorious prison of its kind in Managua, "El Chipote," prisoners are reportedly kept in the smallest cells in total darkness and are tortured both physically and psychologically.

How does one find out something like this: "Our commission has been known for years all over Nicaragua; former prisoners come to us or we hear from friends or family members as to where and when someone has been arrested." The commission is staffed by five attorneys. It is still largely financed by voluntary contributions from Nicaragua. The main office is Managua, four smaller regional offices are in the interior. Trigeros admits that the financing is becoming ever more difficult. The bureau in Leon, the most important city in the interior next to Granada, had to be closed recently because of it. "The Sandinista system does not know any civil rights; since the proclamation of the extraordinary status on 15 October of last year, there is not even the right of habeas corpus, which could at least prevent the worst excesses. The Sandinistas explain this in the same manner repeatedly: The security of the Sandinista state is more valuable than the legal security of individuals."

Hernandez Trigeros admits that he sometimes fears for himself and his family. He is married and has two children. He himself has already been in jail and the "turbas"--the Sandinista goon squads, had devastated his apartment several times. Does he believe that the CPDH building has microphones placed by the Sandinista State Security Service: "It is possible, but I do not betray any secrets to them since many, many people in Nicaragua know that the Sandinistas have misused their power. That is why dissatisfaction with them is constantly growing."

Trigeros cannot understand why in Europe--primarily in the FRG--there are still so many people in solidarity committees and other groups who continue to remain uncritical of Sandinism: "These people are behaving as though we were still living in 1979 when the revolution was victorious and as though it was not already established that it had been betrayed by the Sandinistas." He explains this also on the basis of growing anti-Americanism in Europe which looks for blame only with the Americans rather than also blaming the Russians: "Today, Nicaragua has more weapons than all Central American countries combined and almost as many as the Mexicans--I have never read anything in a European newspaper, however, regarding the cost of the tanks and helicopters with which the Russians are arming my country."

The walls of the office display several placards: A young Beethoven wrinkles his brow, a group of small children is playing in front of a hut, and a placard from Amnesty International decorates the front wall. Trigeros regrets that representatives of Amnesty International, who had recently visited Nicaragua, had omitted visiting CPDH. The Sandinistas have created their own civil rights commission, the National Commission for the Improvement and Protection of Civil Rights--the CNPPDH. This commission is always included in the visit itinerary of foreign guests: "They are then introduced to the 'granjas abiertas'--a type of Sandinista model jail--in which selected prisoners are shown in small groups and intended to demonstrate how humanely the Sandinistas treat their opponents and what a highly developed educational program they have. You know, these are jails for the export market and it is sad how many people fall for these tricks."

Hernandez Trigeros speaks of the visit of the Spanish Civil Rights Commission which did not consider it necessary to contact the CPDH and whose report on the civil rights situation in Nicaragua then was actually based only on official data provided by the government. Incidentally, Mateo Guerrero, who had been for years the director of the Sandinista civil rights organization CNPPDH, has left the country in the meantime and has received asylum in the United States.

The growing number of young deserted military recruits in the military jails of the country is a development which is little known abroad thus far. Forcible recruitment is on the increase constantly. The growing stream of migrants coming to Managua from the interior can be attributed to the following: In the provinces, the young men--who are mostly between 14 and 16 years of age--could evade compulsory recruitment much less readily than in the large city where they live anonymously. Incidentally, the recruitment drives frequently concentrate on the sons of families who have thus far neither cooperated in the Sandinista militia nor in the "Committees for the Defense of Sandinism"--CES--a type of block-ward system. Anyone who, after more than 6 years of Sandinism, still does not belong to a Sandinista organization is simply declared to be a "reactionary" and dubbed an anti-Sandinista individual, thus becoming an enemy of the people who, according to Sandinista propaganda, need not be treated gently.

Trigeros believes that the Sandinistas themselves have driven a not inconsiderable number of these young people into the arms of the armed anti-Sandinista camp: "Of the young recruits, one-third run away in a very short time." He defends the concept that the government has to discuss matters with all groups of the people if it wishes to avoid a further deterioration of the situation. In the middle of November, the government made the further publication of the monthly CPDH reports dependent on prior permission by the Ministry of the Interior. Since that time, no report has been published. Now, however, the decision has been made to again publish these reports: "Whether one of us or perhaps even all of us will now be put in jail, we do not yet know," says Hernandez Trigeros, "but if we are, then we know what awaits us in any case."

5911/12858

CSO: 3620/628

NICARAGUA

DETAILS OF BORDER AGREEMENT WITH COSTA RICA

Managua BARRICADA INTERNACIONAL in English 27 Mar 86 p 5

[Text] The deputy foreign ministers of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, along with their counterparts from the Contadora nations, left the March 12 meeting in the Costa Rican capital satisfied with the progress they had made.

The diplomats had succeeded in completing the groundwork for an agreement to be drawn up in the near future for the setting up of a permanent border surveillance force to detect and investigate incidents between the two countries. Nicaraguan representative, Victor Hugo Tinoco, commented that the results set a good precedent for establishing a similar mechanism along the Nicaraguan-Honduran border.

However, five days later, following a meeting with the recently appointed US envoy Philip Habib, Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge officially emphasized that his country is not content with simple bilateral arrangements and instead seeks an overall solution to the regional crisis. Costa Rica's engagement in talks with the Sandinista government "does not mean that we will abandon our position that the crisis must be dealt with globally... the present difficulties with Nicaragua should be considered temporary, and will be resolved when an overall agreement is reached."

Ten Points

Monge's statements contradicted his proposal on February 13 to Nicaraguan head of state, Daniel Ortega. At that time, the Costa Rican president proposed that the two nations establish a supervisory commission along their common border under the auspices of the Contadora Group and its Support Group. The goal of this commission would be to prevent border incidents which, in the past, have strained diplomatic relations between the nations.

Ortega immediately accepted the Costa Rican proposal, which was also backed by the eight Contadora and Support Group nations (Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, Columbia, and Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay).

Monge's initiative took definite shape on March 12 when, in an extended session, the deputy foreign ministers drew up the ten points they considered should be included in such an agreement. Among other points, they agreed that the commission:

1. should be civilian and permanent in character;
2. will receive support from advisers trained in defense and security matters;
3. will be charged with on site observation, investigation and verification of incidents or events that could produce border tensions;
4. will draw up reports and recommendations for the governments of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, which have committed themselves "to ensure the implementation of the necessary recommendations of measures to correct the situations leading to the investigations";
5. an executive commission, or directive body, will also be formed, made up of civilian representatives from Costa Rica, Nicaragua and the Contadora and Support Group nations.

The draft prepared by Tinoco and his Costa Rican counterpart, Gerardo Trejos, included other points related to the commitments to be made by the parties involved and structure of the commission, as well as the security, supplies and financing of the group.

However, Tinoco explained that the diplomats were not able to agree on the date that the commission would begin to function as they must wait for the official backing of Contadora and the Support Group, which will also take on the task of securing international aid. In addition, the Costa Ricans stated that a legal agreement should be drawn up to be submitted to that country's Legislative Assembly for consideration.

Beyond the legal procedure, Tinoco felt the meeting constituted "a particularly significant step," and proved that it is possible to create mechanisms and improve bilateral relations if the necessary political will exists. It also demonstrated the prevailing sentiment that the people of Central America will not benefit from a war or Reagan's US\$100 million, but rather from "civilized actions based on respect for international law."

Bad Timing

This sentiment did not sit well with the Reagan administration. As the Latin American delegates were working out the agreement in San Jose, the US administration was involved full-force in its publicity campaign to win support to depose the Nicaraguan government through granting US\$100 million in "aid" to the CIA's mercenaries.

Habib arrived in Costa Rica on March 14 after visiting El Salvador and Guatemala. He met with Monge and Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, and afterwards praised the Costa Ricans "profound understanding of the region."

Upon Habib's departure for Honduras, Gutierrez held a press conference; uncomfortable, he clarified that his government had not signed any legal

agreement with Nicaragua, and that any eventual agreement would go through the process "of negotiation, drafting, signing and ratification," and then be presented to the legislature.

The Nicaraguan government maintained a discreet silence in the face of its neighbors' statements, while news agencies called the declarations made by Monge and Gutierrez "surprising."

/12851

CSO: 3248/354

PERUVIAN ENVOY AFFIRMS POSITION ON INTERVENTION

PA081452 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] [Armando Lecaro Decosio], new Peruvian ambassador to Nicaragua, said that no one should approve an aggression against a country that politically has a right to choose its own system. Ambassador (Lecaro Decosio) made this statement after presenting his credentials to Nicaraguan President Commander Daniel Ortega at the Cesar Augusto Silva Conventions Center in Managua. The Peruvian ambassador made this statement when referring to the U.S. Congress debates on the \$100 million in aid for the contras and the presence of U.S. military helicopters and advisers in Honduras.

The Peruvian ambassador, who was trade attache at the Peruvian Embassy in Managua between 27 August and 27 October, 1979, said that the \$100 million that Reagan wants to give the Somozist mercenaries must never be given. (Lecaro Decosio) said that Peru is against all type of aid aimed at an intervention in Nicaragua. The ambassador reaffirmed Peruvian President Alan Garcia's position in that his government will break diplomatic relations with Washington if they dare invade Nicaragua. (Lecaro Decosio) added that his government believes in the self-determination of the peoples and against intervention. He added that if there is proof that there are U.S. troops in Honduras, then this would affect the efforts being made by the Contadora and Support Groups.

/7051

CSO: 3248/346

FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR AIRPORT AT BEQUIA CONTRACTED

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 7 Mar 86 p A

[Text]

The Central Tender Board on Friday 28 February approved the award of a contract in the sum of 61926 pounds (approximately EC\$240000) to the British firm of Wallace Evans and Partners, Consulting Civil and Structural Engineers, with whom will be associated the Trinidadian firm of Consulting Engineers, with whom will be associated the Trinidadian firm of Consulting Engineers Lee Young and Partners for the execution of a feasibility study for the development of an airport on Bequia in the St. Vincent Grenadines.

The study which is financed through a contingently reimbursable loan from the European Investment Bank, will be carried out in two (2) stages.

The first stage which is to be completed in four (4) months, will lead to the preparation of an Interim Report which will examine the future development of tourism on Bequia and

assess the requirements for improved accessibility of the island to tourists.

On approval of the Interim Report by Government and the European Investment Bank, the consultants will proceed to the second stage which has as its objectives a determination of the principal characteristics of the airstrip required together with an analysis of costs and benefits.

The study will conclude with a recommendation on whether detailed engineering designs and specifications should be drawn up. The second stage is also expected to last four (4) months and the final report is scheduled for presentation to Government and the European Investment Bank in December this year.

Given the length of time required for the study the earliest possible date for the start of construction on the project if proven feasible will be towards the end of 1987.

/12851

CSO: 3298/409

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

BRIEFS

SUCCESS WITH IMF--The International Monetary Fund (the IMF) has called on its sister agency, the World Bank and donor countries in the World to AID St Vincent and the Grenadines. The IMF also encouraged investment in Ports and the Airport. Directors of the Fund commended the turnaround in the economy over the last 18 months! These 18 months are the exact time-period since the New Democratic Party took office. There can be no clearer statement of praise for the performance of the NDP Government. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Rt Hon. James Mitchell quoted from the telex received from the IMF on the Article IV consultation on SVG-TV Monday night. St Vincent is a member of the Fund and World Bank. The IMF investigates and advises, the World Bank and other countries, supply the aid. It is only when you mismanage your country's economy, that you have to borrow from the IMF. The Labour regime borrowed from them. The NDP Government is paying them back. [Text] [Kingstown NEW TIMES in English 27 Feb 86 pp 1, 2] /12851

MITCHELL REPORT ON TRIP--Port, Fisheries and airport development were some of the issues raised by Prime Minister James Mitchell during talks with Canadian officials in Ottawa during his recent visit to North America. He returned home on Sunday night. Mitchell said that 1.92 million dollars has been allocated through Canadian assistance for the port development project and about 14 million dollars will be earmarked for the fisheries project over several years. The Prime Minister also reported that he had discussed the proposed industrial estate at Diamond, the Canadian training awards programme and the Cumberland hydro project. While in Canada, Mr Mitchell was hosted at a dinner organised by the newly formed Vincentian Association of Ottawa. He spoke on the economic development of St Vincent and the Grenadines. The Prime Minister said that the country's United Nations Mission in New York will soon be moving to new quarters. The government has taken a 10-year lease on the new premises. The move has been made necessary by the expanded role of the mission in New York, which will now house tourism promotion and industrial promotion offices, aimed at attracting visitors and investors respectively. Madge Morris, a Vincentian has already been appointed as the tourism promotion officer, based at the mission. [Text] [Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 21 Feb 86 p 3] /12851

BARBADOS FISHING INCURSION--A Barbados fishing boat was found fishing in Vincentian territorial waters last Sunday. The boat, and its 3-men fishing crew, was ordered by Fisheries Officer Kirwin Morris into Kingstown at about 1:30 pm. Morris said the fishing boat was located 18 miles off Batawia, a Grenadines rock close to Bequia. The boat, Capri II, was held in police custody for two days. Morris said the boat had flying fish and other fish on board. He said when ordered into Kingstown, the men were reluctant to move. He said several attempts were made to contact the Coast Guard boat but that failed. Morris said he had taken "great chance" in getting that boat to Kingstown. [Text] [Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 7 Mar 86 p 6] /12851

CSO: 3298/409

CITIZENS POLLED FOR VIEW ON GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICY

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p 4-A

["Minisurvey: Sacrifices y," by Adip Sabag. Survey carried out by Mexican Public Opinion Institute in the Federal District between 10 and 12 March 1986. Five hundred and fifty-two persons over 18 years of age were interviewed. They had been selected by quota method (e.g. sex, age), in accordance with data from the latest population census.]

[Text] Do you believe that at this time the government's economic policy is sacrificing the nation's independence?

Yes	50 percent
No	22 percent
Don't Know	<u>28 percent</u>
	100 percent

/7051

CSO: 3248/331

COSTS OF GOVERNMENT MEAT, CHICKEN IMPORTS RECOUNTED

Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 25 Mar 86 p 1

[Unattributed report; for related article, see JPRS LATIN AMERICA REPORT of 27 Mar 86 (JPRS-LAM-86-031), p 105]

[Text] Because there is a shortage of meat in butchers' shops and these already have been closed for more than four weeks, the Ministry of Transportation, Trade, and Industry [THI] has imported meat and chicken through the Central Import Company of Suriname.

There have been two shipments and due to circumstances imports have been halted again.

In an interview with DE WARE TIJD, the Society of Master Butchers has provided through its leadership a survey of what the meat imports have cost.

The butchers, who are meat experts, gave the following figures:

Both shipments involved 20 tons (20,000 kg) of beef and 20 tons (20,000 kg) of pork each, for a total of 40,000 kg beef at 10 guilders per kilogram and 40,000 kg pork at 6.40 guilders per kilogram, which comes to a total of 400,000 guilders for beef and 241,600 guilders [figure as published] for pork.

If it is calculated that overall the THI has paid out for beef and pork alone (the chicken cost is not included here) 641,600 guilders, then this comes to \$US 356,444 for these two shipments and perhaps more if the shipping costs are figured.

This meat was sold to the butchers, pending the new government control prices, at 5.50 guilders per kilogram for beef and 3.70 guilders per kilogram for pork.

The government has thus subsidized the meat 95 percent [figure as published]. We butchers therefore wonder why the government, in anticipation of the new prices, cannot also subsidize local meat.

/7051

CSO: 3214/39

BRIEFS

1986 FOREIGN EXCHANGE SHORTFALL--In an interview with DE WARE TIJD, Transportation, Trade, and Industry Minister Imro Fong Poen stated that in 1986 it is expected that Suriname will have a foreign exchange shortfall of 105 million Surinamese guilders. Foreign exchange income for this year is estimated at 476 million, with expenditures at 581 million. The minister said that the entire government is racking its brain over this problem in looking for a solution. What we are thinking of doing is importing raw materials for factories that manufacture goods that can be exported. The excess production is then exported and in this way we earn foreign exchange. But this is still under consideration, according to the minister. /Text/ /Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 20 Mar 86 p 1/ 12228

CSO: 3214/40

NAR ADVANCES ELECTION CAMPAIGNING, CLAIMS LEAD OVER PNM

Poll of Voter Support

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 7 Apr 86 p 1

[Article by Ria Taitt]

[Text]

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE for Reconstruction (NAR) is claiming 57 per cent of the voters in the East-West Corridor, with 17 per cent going to the ruling People's National Movement (PNM).

And the man making the announcement, based on "political data not available to the public" was parliamentarian John Humphrey who gave those figures to the First Annual Conference of the Chaguanas Constituency.

The theme of Humphrey's address, however, was that the key to putting this country back on a development footing is land.

Addressing the Presentation College crowd, Humphrey asked rhetorically:

"Why would any sane bunch of people want to take over this country after the PNM?"

Stating that without financial resources, it is difficult to do anything, he contended that by the time the Chambers government conceded power to the NAR, it would have "splurged" every cent in the Treasury and this country would have been in deep debt.

"That is what we will be taking over," he said.

"But," he added, "if I didn't feel that we could overturn that, I wouldn't be here."

Elaborating on the NAR alternative, Humphrey said although the money had been squandered, the land was idle. Placing land development in Trinidad and Tobago in an historical situation, he said that government provided infrastructure only in those places where PNM votes abounded. He stated that in the other village communities infrastructure came through self-help.

But these villages are dying, Humphrey said, and linked it to the pat-

tern of land ownership and use that had evolved.

He referred to the current movement of young people from such areas looking for employment in the town. He said that the NAR would reverse this pattern by giving back the land to the village communities so that food crops could be grown and productive activity could be engaged in. He cited the Caroni area as a feasible area because government owned most of the land.

"Once people start to go back to the land and produce food," he said, "money become available."

Threat to Campaigner

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 31 Mar 86 p 5

[Text]

DR BEAU TEWARIE, General Secretary of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) told the EXPRESS over the weekend the NAR Caroni East constituency conference would take place in Longdenville tomorrow (Tuesday) evening.

The meeting will be held at the Longdenville Government School at 7 p.m., when officers will be elected.

The meeting comes in the wake of an incident at Sewdass Trace, Upper

Carayichaima, when an NAR supporter was reportedly threatened by a member of another party, after becoming involved in organisational work for the NAR.

Bottles were later thrown onto his roof, in what may be the first violent incident of the campaign.

Supporters of the other party, however, say the man was not threatened and suggest he may have thrown the bottles onto the roof

himself to stir up trouble.

All NAR constituency organisations should have met to elect officers by April 15, as the party moves towards the general election.

Tewarie has sent out relevant documents to each constituency, including nomination papers for candidates. Candidates should also be nominated by April 15.

On Wednesday, the NAR constituency organisation in San Juan is

to meet at NAR headquarters in Barataria at 7 p.m.

Other constituency conferences to take place within the next fortnight are as follows.

Pointe-a-Pierre, Saturday, April 5 at 5 p.m., at the Marabella Composite School; Princess Town, April 5 at 7 p.m., St Stephen's College, Craignish Street; Port of Spain South, April 5 at 4 p.m., at the St Martin Welfare Association, 16 St Paul Street.

Silence on Election Date

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 31 Mar 86 p 1

[Text]

THE NAIL-BITING speculation over the date of the general election will continue, since there was no word on this from Prime Minister and Political Leader George Chambers, as he wound up the PNM's special convention yesterday.

But he urged party members to go about the party's business diligently and maintain the high morale demonstrated at the convention.

"When the time comes," Chambers added, "and the announcements are made, whatever they are and whenever they are, we would have done our homework and will be ready, and we will again demonstrate our capacity, willingness, readiness and capability to ask the people of Trinidad and Tobago

for yet another mandate."

The Prime Minister said he was struck by the unusually large attendance at the convention and indicated that party morale has never been higher. The official figures showed that 401 delegates and more than 1618 observers registered.

Chambers commented briefly on points raised during discussions on reports submitted to the convention on a party scholarship programme, a welfare programme, a party credit union and the youth league.

"Now begins the tough assignment of implementation," he noted. "Extreme caution is necessary. We must not get bogged down and I have some ideas on this."

Alleged NAR Clash

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 3 Apr 86 p 7

[Text]

A MEETING called by the Caroni East Constituency Group of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) on Tuesday night to nominate a candidate was postponed because of an unexpectedly large crowd turnout and friction.

According to reports, about 800 people attended the meeting which was held at the Longdenville Government School to select a candidate to represent the area in the forthcoming general elections

Top officials of the NAR said yesterday that because of the large crowd, the venue could not accommodate everyone and a decision was taken to postpone the meeting to April 10.

However, members of the constituency group said that the meeting had to be postponed because it became "too rowdy."

They stated that there was friction between two of the main contenders, — Dr. Beau Tewarie and Councillor Gandhi Persad — and groups supporting both individuals who sought to influence the nominations.

According to reports, there was a verbal clash between both sides.

Asked to comment on the meeting yesterday, Dr. Tewarie said that

some people had been expressing strong points of view but he himself did not get involved in that situation.

He added that although he lives in the

Caroni East Constituency, he is not actively pursuing election as its NAR representative for the forthcoming general elections.

Dr. Tewarie said that the turnout at the meeting was "exceptionally large."

He said another venue was being sought for the April 10, meeting.

Additional Reportage

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 3 Apr 86 p 3

[Text]

CONFLICTING reports surround the postponement of a NAR meeting in Caroni East Tuesday night.

Eyewitnesses told the EXPRESS yesterday that the constituency meeting turned into a row. "We had almost reached the point where a fight would have ensued," said Steve Rajkumar.

According to Rajkumar a quarrel arose between Gandhi Persad, the Caroni East County Councillor and Beau Tewarie, NAR's General Secretary, both of whom

had brought their separate crowds. The disagreement, he said, ensued since it was felt that many of the people whom Tewarie brought did not belong to the constituency.

The angry Rajkumar whose son reportedly got a sprained leg as a result of Tuesday's fracas said.

However Phillip Nunez, NAR's assistant secretary and Beau Tewarie both of whom were present at the meeting, denied such reports in separate interviews. Stating that at no time was he involved in any conflict, Tewarie

said he was amazed at the tremendous turn-out and at the level of exuberance at the meeting.

He added that after it was announced that the official meeting was called off, about 60 per cent of the crowd stayed back for an informal chat with the NAR executive on politics and the role of the NAR.

Nunez said the extremely large turn-out (about 800 people) created a situation where by 7.30 p.m. the entire school was crammed and the forecourt was reasonably crowded.

/9274

CSO: 3298/410

ARMS, AMMUNITION SEIZED AT RELIGIOUS COMMUNE

Report on Police Raid

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 31 Mar 86 p 1

[Text]

A POLICE party headed by Assistant Superintendent of Police Hubert Williams found a quantity of arms and ammunition at a Pt Cumana religious commune in a raid on the place last Saturday night.

Two machine guns, other offensive weapons

and ammunition for a variety of firearms were seized together with an underwater camera and colour video camera.

Seven people, including five women, were arrested at the La Horquette Extension premises.

Description of Cache

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 2 Apr 86 p 1

[Text]

SEVEN MEMBERS of a religious commune at La Horquette Extension, Pt Cumana appeared before Magistrate Conrad Roach in the First Magistrates Court charged with possession of arms and ammunition.

Leslie Holder, David Mohammed, Sabira Mohammed, Agrylal Mohammed, Anetta Lewis, Ann Prince and Arisah Mohammed were arrested last Saturday night.

Two German made sub-machine guns, 238 rounds of ammunition for the guns, 75 rounds of self-loading rifle ammunition, 44 revolver rounds, 11 rounds of 16 gauge ammunition and eight machine gun cartridges were allegedly seized in the police action. Also seized were three cameras including a video camera and another for underwater photography, a machete, a dagger and 201 video tapes.

Police are currently viewing the tapes.

In court yesterday, Acting Inspector Edward Alleyne strongly objected to the granting of bail due to the seriousness of the offence and, in Holder's case, advised the magistrate that the man had 21 previous offences of a similar nature together with other violent crimes.

Magistrate Roach granted bail totalling \$100,000 each to the five women and David

SUGAR WORKERS' INDUSTRIAL ACTION AGAINST CARONI ENDS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Apr 86 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text]

THE eight-week-old work-to-rule by sugar workers employed with Caroni Limited has ended. Decision to terminate the industrial action which has already resulted in some \$13.5 million damage to the reaping of the sugar crop was taken yesterday at a meeting of the General Council of the All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Trade Union.

The Guardian was informed that Council members voted unanimously to end the work-to-rule from today, Monday.

Accordingly, the Council has issued a call to all sugar workers to "double and redouble their efforts to make sure that farmers harvested all their canes."

President General of the union, Basdeo Panday, told the Guardian that the work-to-rule was called off for two main reasons:

First, because the Court is due to hear the Company's appeal against the Industrial Court award on Monday April 14 and, "In deference to the Court and out of respect for the law," the Union did not want to give the impression that the Court would be forced to decide on this matter under duress.

Crop Near End

Secondly, Mr. Panday said, the Union recognised that the 1986 crop was coming to an end and the strong possibility existed that if the work-to-rule continued the farmers would not be able to take out all their canes.

"Therefore, out of consideration for the problems facing the farmers, the Union acted accordingly," he said.

However, Mr. Panday added, the General Council has warned that if Caroni should attempt to victimise any worker or group of workers because of the work-to-rule, then the Union would immediately revert to that action.

Last week, the Trinidad Island-wide Cane Farmers Association (TICFA) appealed to Mr. Panday to call off the work-to-rule and let the Appeal Court decide the issue.

The work-to-rule had been undertaken by Mr. Panday's union as a means of forcing the company to withdraw its appeal.

According to releases from the company, severe losses have been experienced in harvesting operations since the industrial action began.

With seven weeks remaining for the crop, the Company has produced 3,602 tonnes of sugar from 686,870 tonnes of cane. This is 9,724 tonnes of sugar and 112,630 tonnes of cane less than planned.

Targeted sugar production for 1985 is about 91,000 tonnes.

Caroni earns approximately \$1,400 in foreign exchange per tonne of sugar exported. This means that the company has lost about \$13.5 million with the shortage of production.

/9274

CSO: 3298/410

BRIEFS

CARONI RICE PROGRAM--State-owned Caroni Ltd's rice production programme got a financial boost with a \$16.4 million loan from the Caribbean Development Bank in Barbados. A company spokesman said yesterday that the loan represented two-thirds of the overall cost of the project aimed at putting 2,000 acres of land under rice cultivation during the period 1986-88. The company would provide \$8.6 million. The spokesman said Caroni Ltd expects to produce 12 million pounds of paddy by 1988. Already the company has awarded a contract to prepare 700 acres of land for rice cultivation off the Butler Highway. The company has about 480 acres of rice under cultivation, including a 150-acre pilot project. The spokesman said that the rice project would be highly mechanised. The National Rice Mill has reportedly assured Caroni Ltd of a market for all the rice it can produce. The spokesman said the price would be negotiated. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 2 Apr 86 p 29] /9274

VENEZUELAN FISHING SURVEILLANCE--San Fernando--Venezuela's National Guards are keeping a close check on Trinidad's fishermen to make sure they shrimp in that country's waters legally. That is to say, the Cedros, Icacos and Erin fishermen who have been issued with permits must present them on demand by the Venezuelan authorities, so they would be allowed to fish without being arrested. A report from Cedros said last Thursday morning the Venezuelan guards conducted their first such exercise in the shrimping grounds area and being satisfied that the fishermen were in possession of permits, allowed them to remain in the area. But, said one boat owner, several fishermen did not have passes raced back home before they were approached, leaving their nets behind. He said one owner lamented the fact that he suffered a loss of about \$1,000 being the value of his net, trawling door and rope. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Apr 86 p 7] /9274

CSO: 3298/410

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